

القدس

University Of Jordan
Center of Strategic Studies
P.O. Box 100
Amman, Jordan

Israel imposes curfew on Sa'ir

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli occupation authorities Wednesday clamped a curfew on a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank and mounted house-to-house searches following a grenade attack on Israeli troops, an army spokesman said. The grenade was thrown Tuesday night at an Israeli patrol in Sa'ir, near Hebron, but caused no casualties, he said. In the afternoon, the army extended for 12 hours a curfew imposed immediately after the incident and searched houses for the attackers, the spokesman said. He could not confirm a report on Israel Radio that six villagers were injured in a fight with troops trying to enter their home. Last month, Israel increased the number of its troops in the occupied West Bank and stepped up patrols in response to a wave of anti-Israeli attacks and the killing of a soldier.

Jordan Times

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Sidon blast and Israelis kill 4

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli forces killed two Lebanese they "identified" as commandos in South Lebanon Wednesday, and sources in the occupied zone reported increased Israeli tank and machine gun fire both within and outside the territory controlled by Israel. In Sidon, in the area vacated by Israel three weeks ago, a bomb went off at a coffee shop, killing at least two people and wounding 19 others, according to police reports from the city 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Police sources said the bomb was placed in a nylon bag outside the coffee shop in downtown Sidon and was detonated shortly after 6 p.m. (1600 GMT). No other details were available. Meanwhile, American employees of the United Nations were ordered out of South Lebanon following threats against U.S. citizens in the region, according to sources in Beirut (See page 2).

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Dumas to meet Arafat in Tunis

PARIS (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will meet Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis Thursday, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. Mr. Dumas left Paris Wednesday for a 24-hour visit to Tunis, following visits to Algeria and Morocco last month. In Tunis, Mr. Dumas was meeting Wednesday night with his counterpart Beji Caid Essebsi. His Thursday schedule calls for meetings with President Habib Bourguiba, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klihi, and Mr. Arafat, before closing talks with Premier Mohammed Mzali and Mr. Essebsi.

Israel frees 5 detained journalists

BEIRUT (AP) — Five Beirut-based journalists, including an Associated Press reporter and photographer, were arrested by Israeli forces in occupied South Lebanon on Wednesday and released several hours later unharmed. Samir F. Ghattas, the AP reporter among those seized, said he and the others were questioned by Israeli soldiers but were not mistreated. The others arrested were Donald Mell, a photographer for the U.S.-based AP, Frederick Neema, a photographer for the Reuters news agency, Alfred Zadeh, a part-time photographer for Newsweek magazine, and Bernard Buisson, a French free-lance journalist.

Shara'a: U.S. should have own policy

TOKYO (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a said Wednesday the United States should give up its pro-Israel stand and work out an independent policy to help bring peace in the Middle East, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman said. Mr. Shara'a made the statement in a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, who asked not to be identified. The spokesman quoted Mr. Shara'a as saying, "The United States is playing an important role in the Middle East, but it is only supporting Israel. We don't have a feeling that the United States is pursuing its independent policy there. That is the problem. Mr. Shara'a was quoted as saying.

Israel sends appeal to EC

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who leaves on Sunday for Brussels, appealed Wednesday to the European Community (EC) to protect Israeli farm exports to the trading bloc after Spain becomes a member. He sent messages to the foreign ministers of seven community countries, his spokesman said. Last month, he visited the other three in the 10-nation group, France, West Germany and the Netherlands. Two-thirds of Israeli agricultural exports go to the Common Market. Officials here fear that Spain's entry to the bloc, expected next year, will greatly reduce the level of those exports since the two countries grow similar products.

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Jordanian, Egyptian leaders meet in Hurghada

Jordan-PLO accord offers last chance for peace, King says

Hussein, Mubarak stress need for U.S.-PLO dialogue

HURGHADA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem is the last chance for peace in the Middle East, His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference here after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, King Hussein said he supported Mr. Mubarak's proposal to the United States to start a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"I share President Mubarak's feelings that the dialogue he suggested is a vital element for progress," the King said.

Mr. Mubarak, who is due to meet President Reagan in Washington on March 12, has suggested the United States open talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, then bring Israel into the talks to be followed by an international conference.

Both King Hussein and President Mubarak stressed that Washington must speak to the PLO, which the United States and Israel have so far refused to do.

Mr. Mubarak recalled that the Vietnam war ended only after the United States negotiated a settlement with Hanoi.

King Hussein said it was up to the United States to decide whether to respond favourably to Mr. Mubarak's proposals and the agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

No Mideast peace without Soviet role, analyst says

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet news analyst, commenting on U.S.-Soviet talks in Vienna last month on the Middle East, said Wednesday the meeting had shown a regional peace settlement required the participation of the Kremlin.

The analyst, E. Ryabitshev of the news agency Novosti, noted in an article that the U.S. State Department had described the talks as helping to elucidate the stands of both sides.

"In Moscow's view, the exchange of opinions in Vienna showed that a truly comprehensive Middle East settlement for the benefit of all sides can be reached only with the Soviet Union's participation," Ryabitshev wrote.

An international conference on the Middle East, with the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) taking part, has been a long-standing proposal by Moscow.

"This may be the last chance, in fact it is the last chance," King Hussein said. "I cannot guarantee anything in advance. I can guarantee my word only... it is up to the United States to decide."

The King added: "There is a very narrow window for hope" that the renewed efforts to bring peace to the Middle East would succeed.

Asked whether Jordan would accept direct talks with Israel, King Hussein replied: "I believe the dialogue (with the U.S.) would certainly clear the air of much of the questions that are posed and have been posed without answers."

He said: "We have made our move. It is up to others to make theirs, particularly the U.S. as a superpower involved in the problem."

Asked why would the U.S. accept a dialogue with the PLO, he

said: "If their objective is peace and stability... if their objective is a stable area... why should their position be negative?"

This was the first time, he said, that Jordan and the PLO had "come together to say to the world 'here we are ready to make our contribution and clarify our position' hoping for their support and help for the attainment of a just and durable peace."

Mr. Mubarak denied reports he had suggested non-PLO members as Palestinian negotiators.

"I have never said so. The PLO is everywhere. It is the majority and the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. We shall never change our mind on this," he said.

Asked whether the Palestinian members of the delegation should be non-PLO members, King Hussein said: "I have not altered my position that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The King also reiterated Jordan's refusal to talk on behalf of the PLO.

"Jordan can never be a substitute for the Palestinians and their legitimate representative," he said.

King Hussein denied reports that the PLO had obtained amendments to the agreement, which proposes a Middle East settlement based on all United Nations resolutions on the conflict.

"There have been no amendments to the agreement," King Hussein told reporters here.

"There are interpretations to some items which do not alter the substance."

PLO sources quoted by the AP said Wednesday PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was expected to meet King Hussein shortly to discuss clarifications the PLO had sought on the Feb. 11 accord.

King Hussein said the agreement shows an Arab commitment to peace.

"In the agreement itself the commitment of both sides to the establishment of peace is there," he said. "The acceptance of all U.N. and Security Council resolutions is there."

Mr. Mubarak was asked what Arab states would do if Israel continued to refuse to sit at the bargaining table with the PLO.

"We should be realistic," Mr. Mubarak replied. "We are not now talking about Israel and the joint delegation sitting at one table. We cannot achieve a solution in one step."

Mr. Mubarak said he and King Hussein had agreed "on one viewpoint" regarding peace talks.

"We see that a dialogue should start between the U.S. and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," he said. "This dialogue will lead to a narrowing of differences and then other steps."

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. urges Iran, Iraq to honour limited truce

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar and the president of the U.N. Security Council Wednesday appealed to Iran and Iraq to refrain from attacking civilian targets.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar and Blaise Rabetafika of Madagascar, the council president, referred to an undertaking signed last June by the two governments saying they would respect civilian centres.

The secretary general said in a written statement he was dismayed and alarmed by reports of attacks on Ahwaz on Monday and

on Basra Tuesday.

He said he was convinced it was still possible to preserve the undertakings, which had spared many thousands of civilian lives, if both governments renewed their commitments.

"I therefore call upon the governments of Iran and Iraq to continue to uphold the international obligations which they have undertaken on 12 June 1984 and thus safeguard the agreement to refrain from attacks on civilian population centres in Iran and Iraq," the statement said.

Iran traded threats with Iraq

Wednesday to shell cities and towns as the limited ceasefire agreement banning attacks on civilian targets began to unravel.

In an escalation of the 53-month-old war, Iraq named 30 cities and towns it said it would attack in retaliation for Tuesday night's shelling of Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

But more than twelve hours after the 0700 GMT deadline given by Baghdad for the start of attacks, there were no reports that the threat had been carried out.

Iran countered with a pledge to retaliate.

Diplomats in Tehran said the sudden upsurge in shelling could mean an effective end to a limited ceasefire pact between the warring neighbours banning attacks on civilian areas.

"Neither side will want to be the first to declare the ceasefire cancelled, but if the two sides carry out their threats you could say the agreement is not worth the paper it is written on," one Asian diplomat said.

The agreement was negotiated by Mr. Perez de Cuellar last June after a similar series of raids and retaliatory attacks.

Strauss: Arab-Israel war impossible without Egypt

MUNICH (AP) — Bavarian Governor Franz Josef Strauss, defending proposed tank sales to Saudi Arabia, said Wednesday that Israel faces no military threat from Arab nations without Egypt.

Mr. Strauss also said indications of an Egyptian-Israeli rapprochement coinciding with Israel's ongoing withdrawal from Lebanon improved chances for Middle East peace and created a suitable climate for the sale of Leopard II tanks to the Saudis.

"One should take note that without Egypt, there can be no war against Israel and this puts the possible supply of Leopard-2 (tanks) to Saudi Arabia in a different light," said Mr. Strauss, a conservative who wields considerable weight in West German politics.

The Israelis, who strongly opposed

Saudi acquisition of the tanks on grounds they might eventually be used against the Jewish state, tried to change Mr. Strauss' mind when he visited the country last week. The West German government has not made a final decision on the sale of the tanks, whose manufacturer is located in Bavaria state.

Mr. Strauss said that in facing down opposition within the Israeli coalition cabinet to the Lebanon pullout plan, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres had "sent a signal to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that was understood and answered."

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, but Egypt withdrew its ambassador in 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and relations have been strained since.

Reagan, Craxi voice agreement on arms issues

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi held a two-hour meeting Tuesday and afterwards expressed strong agreement on arms issues on the eve of important U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations.

As he left the White House, Mr. Craxi said the talks "confirmed the existence of broad and encouraging convergence" on defence issues.

"I am convinced that the basic goals of the United States' policy remain defence and peace based on a balance of forces," the Italian leader said.

"The president has assured me that these same goals will be pursued through the (strategic defence initiative)," the controversial

proposal for a U.S.-developed space-based missile defence system, popularly known as "Star Wars."

Mr. Craxi said that both the Italians and Americans will draw benefits from research into "Star Wars," an apparent reference to Washington's willingness to allow its European allies to receive some of the research contracts for the project.

Mr. Reagan, in bidding farewell, told Mr. Craxi that relations between the two countries are "at a level unsurpassed in our history."

Mr. Reagan said they had discussed the approach the United States will take towards the Soviet Union in the arms talks due to

open next week in Geneva.

He said Mr. Craxi remained steadfast about the need to deploy intermediate range missiles in Europe and understood the need for "Star Wars" and the potential benefits from the programme.

Mr. Craxi's visit comes two weeks after British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited Washington and expressed agreement with the Reagan administration's arms negotiating position in even stronger terms.

Soviet leaders have insisted that there is little hope of progress at the Geneva negotiations unless the U.S. is willing to abandon "Star Wars," the first phase of which is a large-scale research effort.

Mr. Craxi said: "We both noted with interest the recent Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. We hope that this agreement will shortly allow for a joint Arab stand and the opening of realistic negotiations with Israel."



His Majesty King Hussein being received Wednesday by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at Red Sea town of Hurghada (Petra photo)

Israelis set up new posts, continue arrests in anti-resistance attempt

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli soldiers trying to crack down on resistance forces kept a tight grip on the Tyre area Wednesday, setting up new checkpoints, arresting travellers and raiding a village, witnesses and security sources said.

They stormed the village of Bedias, arrested about 20 men and searched houses, throwing grenades and firing machine-guns into nearby valleys and hillside caves as they hunted for resistance men, the sources said.

It was the latest of a series of raids on villages near Tyre since the Israelis launched a crackdown two weeks ago aimed at breaking resistance to their occupation.

Israeli soldiers set up checkpoints on roads leading to Tyre and arrested 13 people at one of

them. Witnesses said two of the men were later released and the others taken blindfolded to an interrogation centre.

About 300 metres from the checkpoint the body of a man was found with a bullet in his head, and the skin flayed from his face, the sources said.

"There was an accident," an Israeli soldier told Reuters as he barred reporters from reaching the orange grove near Tyre where the body of Hassan Skeiki, a Lebanese Shi'ite, was found.

Sheiki, found in a white Mercedes car, had been travelling alone when he left Tyre Tuesday afternoon, defying Israel's recent ban on driving without passengers in occupied areas of South Lebanon.

His father-in-law, Assad Aoun, said relatives had seen an Israeli patrol firing "left and right" as it travelled down the same road Tuesday afternoon.

In Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said the cabinet had discussed a visit here Tuesday by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, a veteran mediator among Lebanon's rival political factions.

He gave no details of proposals discussed by Mr. Khaddam and President Amin Gemayel to break the deadlock over long-stalled constitutional and political reforms in Lebanon.

As the cabinet discussed Lebanon's financial crisis, the Lebanese pound plunged to a record low, closing at 18.65/80 to the dollar compared with 17.00/75 Tuesday.

Syria holding secret talks with U.S., Israel — Arafat

PARIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is quoted in an interview this week as saying Syria and Israel are holding secret negotiations "under U.S. supervision and with the full knowledge of the Soviet Union."

He is quoted in a edition of the Arabic weekly Al Watan Al Arabi, to be published here Friday.

In the interview, Mr. Arafat is quoted as saying that many meetings have already taken place between Syrians and Israelis in Washington, Tangiers, Geneva and in Kenya "with the main aim of guaranteeing the security of the northern borders of Israel and preventing the PLO returning to Lebanon."

Syria is backing the rebel PLO leaders who forced Mr. Arafat to leave northern Lebanon in December 1983.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying

the story was proved by the fact that after the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon "Syria withdrew 12,000 men from the ceasefire line."

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying the Syrian Information Ministry said at the time the troops were needed on Syria's borders with Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

Mr. Arafat was also quoted as saying that Israel forces would only withdraw completely from Lebanon and in particular hold the strategic positions at Deir Al Achayer in the Bekaa Valley and Mount Broek in the Shouf mountains, if the secret talks with Syria were successful.

Israeli troops have started dismantling their positions in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, where they face Syrian forces, as part of the second phase of a three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon.

U.S. Senate panel votes to reduce Reagan budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled Senate budget committee, in a sharp rebuff to President Ronald Reagan, voted tentatively Tuesday in favour of a \$79-billion reduction in his military buildup over the next three years.

On a bipartisan vote of 18-4, the committee proposed freezing U.S. defence spending authority at current levels after adjusting for inflation for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. That would be followed by after-inflation increases of three per cent for each of the two subsequent years.

It was the first formal indication of the widespread dissatisfaction in Congress over Mr. Reagan's proposed fiscal 1986 budget, which includes a \$30-billion increase in defence spending and nearly \$40 billion in cuts in domestic programmes.

The vote came a few hours after Senate majority leader Robert Dole said the Reagan administration was prepared to negotiate with the House of Representatives and Senate to get a "consensus" budget that will reduce federal deficits.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan "stands squarely behind his budget."

The vote on defence spending marked the beginning of the budget committee's efforts to draft an alternative to Mr. Reagan's spending blueprint.

The budget committee considered five plans, all of which would have allowed U.S. defence spending to rise each year, but by less than the amount Mr. Reagan wants.

Mr. Reagan has called for increases in defence spending authority of 5.9 per cent after inflation in 1986, 8.2 per cent in 1987 and 8.8 per cent in 1988.

Several senators said they saw the need to cut the military budget below Mr. Reagan's request as the key to gaining support for cuts in other areas.

Senator Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, who had offered a defence budget freeze proposal, called for an end to what he termed the "sacred cow" approach to military spending.

Pakistan jails 54 for life

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — A military court Wednesday sentenced 54 people accused of plotting against Pakistan's military government to 25 years in jail after a secret trial, court sources said.

They are part of a group of 96 charged with conspiracy. The other 42, including two sons of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, are living outside Pakistan and the authorities declared them absconders.

The trial of the 54 sentenced Wednesday began last August in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail where they were detained and ended in December. All but four of them boycotted the trial and many went on hunger strike late last year to protest against what they called a denial of justice.

The military court decision announced Wednesday sentenced all 54 to life imprisonment which means 25 years, the court sources said.

Pakistani military court decisions cannot be challenged before civil courts.

It was not immediately known when the court would hand down a decision on the absconding accused. All 96 were accused of belonging to the clandestine urban guerrilla group Al Zulfikar, led by Mr. Bhutto's sons Muratza and Shah Nawaz.

The charges against the accused included "criminal conspiracy" to murder important personalities, attempts to "excite disaffection towards a legally established government" and distributing subversive material.

The sentence comes a day after a man convicted of aiding an Al Zulfikar hijacking of a Pakistani plane in 1981 was hanged in Karachi jail despite international appeals for mercy.

A military court is also trying 18 other people in Rawalpindi jail near Islamabad for plotting against the government.

The Lahore trial was boycotted by 50 of the accused after the court turned down their requests to be released from chains and solitary confinement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's road accidents claim four lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Four people were killed and another 82 people were injured in 161 road accidents which occurred throughout the country during the last week, according to the weekly statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department. The bulletin said that Amman governorate ranked first in the number of accidents, registering 117 accidents, where as no accidents were reported in Ma'an.

JDA gives free treatment to charities

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) professional committee is resuming its voluntary activities by offering free dental care services to residents in handicapped centres, charitable societies and Ministry of Labour and Social Development centres. A team of private sector dentists will Thursday pay a visit to Um Al Hussein orphanage for this purpose. Dr. Shaker Haddad and Dr. Abdul Karim Ghattas are conducting the voluntary dental treatment.

Greece offers education opportunities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Greece will provide through the State Scholarships Foundation (Idryma Kraikion Ypofitron), starting with the academic year 1985-86, fifteen scholarships to Asian and/or African nationals, who are graduates of institutions of higher education, for studies aiming at a doctoral dissertation in Greece. The candidates must hold a degree from either a higher institution of Greece or abroad to be of the level of M.A. or M.Sc. or D.E.A. or Magister Artium, know well either English or French or German, and not exceed 40 years of age.

RSS holds energy conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the rationalisation of minerals and oil was organised by the chemistry department of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was held Wednesday at the RSS.

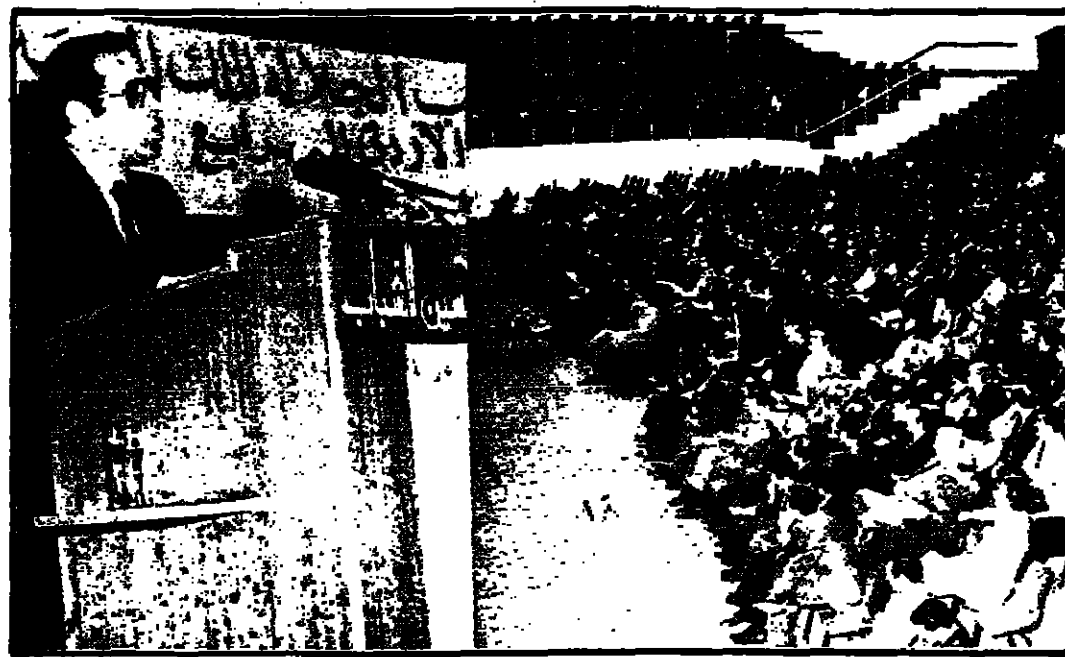
Hypertension via satellite

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and American physicians will hold a conference via satellite at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday at the King Hussein Medical City to discuss hypertension. Three Jordanian doctors will take part in the conference organised by the World-net programme of the United Nations.

Glass factory's management assesses production strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Glass Factories Company managing committee reviewed studies prepared so far to draw up a work and production strategy during the company's next stage, to define priorities to be observed for implementing the work programme, to improve efficiency of the company's staff, to reduce production costs and to develop production techniques.

During its meeting held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran, the committee reviewed the company's relations with the companies which took part in setting up the glass panes factory in Ma'an and their commitment to the work assigned to them under contracts and agreements signed with other companies.



Minister of Health Kamel Ajlouni Wednesday addresses the fourth Jordanian medical conference (Petra photo)

Truck crashes into Zarqa school wall killing three children in playground

ZARQA (J.T.) — Three school children were killed here Tuesday when a pick-up truck crashed into their school.

The pick-up crashed through the school wall during the mid-day break, causing a wall to fall on the children. Three children were admitted to hospital and were reported to be in good condition.

Police sources said the accident took place after the pick-up truck hit a second pick-up and due to high speed went into the school. The sources added that the drivers did not abide by the right-of-way traffic regulations.

All the dead and injured children from the Maslama Ibn

Abdul Malek school were nine or ten years old. One of the injured children left hospital Tuesday but the other two were still receiving medical care for cuts and bruises to their limbs.

In another accident, a large lorry crashed into a house at midnight at Anjan, near Zarqa, resulting in the injury of three brothers of a 12-member family who were all asleep.

The lorry was loaded with 15 tons of cement and was sliding on a slope. Eyewitnesses said that the driver lost control of his vehicle and went through the room of a house facing the street.

The three brothers, aged 22, 18 and 15 years were rushed to a private hospital in Yajana. Hospital sources said that two of them have concussion and are under continuous observation, while the third has a cut in the face and will be kept for two days under observation.

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old who earlier this week hit and killed a 5-year-old child and drove away from the scene of the accident was apprehended and confessed his crime. Police traced the hit and run driver after eyewitnesses identified the make and colour of the car and the digits 255 of its registration plate.

Pan-Arab organisations get together

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held here Wednesday at the head office of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) for directors and representatives of all pan-Arab organisations, institutions and companies that have Amman as their headquarters.

Addressing the meeting was CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Obaidi who stressed the importance of holding such meetings for the exchange of ideas and experience and for the promotion and support of all pan-Arab activities.

The director general of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS), Dr. Nasser Saegh, stressed the importance of cooperation among all pan-Arab organisations, institutions and companies that have Amman as their headquarters.

The secretary general of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM), Dr. Mahdi Hannoush, also called for better cooperation and said that pan-Arab organisations and institutions were

created to ensure better coordination of Arab resources and activities. He said that it is fundamental that these organisations should have better cooperation between themselves.

The director of the regional office of the Arab Organisation for Social Defence, Colonel Youssef Ghareibeh, informed the meeting that Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has agreed to grant all pan-Arab staff in Amman who are holders of diplomatic passports a 50 per cent discount on its flights.

JCO's expansion offers more services to cooperative member

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has agreed to grant JD 376,000 worth of loans to four cooperative societies operating in Jordan. The JCO financial committee decided, after its meeting earlier this month, to grant seasonal and medium-term loans both in-kind and cash for four multi-purpose agricultural cooperative societies in Jordan.

These societies are the agricultural cooperative society in west Irbid, the Al Dukhainat agricultural cooperative society in Salt, the Sarv agricultural cooperative society in Irbid and the Jordan Egg Producing and Marketing Cooperative Society (JEMS) in Amman.

JEMS was given JD 250,000 in loans for the purpose of paying all expenses incurred for producing and marketing eggs. Mr. Mohammad Abu Youssef, acting director of the Cooperative Department at the JCO, told the Jordan Times.

The other loans, Mr. Abu Youssef continued, were given to the

other societies on the basis of their needs and requirements in order to improve their productivity and to encourage the use of machinery in different areas, especially in dry areas.

The JCO is a national organisation established in 1968 to control and observe the cooperative movement in the Kingdom. Despite the fact that the JCO is a national private organisation, it enjoys continuous government support for role it plays in the social and economic development of the country.

The cooperative movement in Jordan started on the East Bank of Jordan in 1952 and the first cooperative society was established at the time, the Al Ghor Cooperative Society for Saving and Lending. At that time the cooperative movement was controlled and observed by the Ministry of Social Affairs through the department for co-operative construction which was later considered the backbone for the cooperative movement.

First cooperative union

In 1959 the first centralised cooperative union for cooperative

societies was legally registered and its responsibilities was to supply the farmers with materials needed for their agricultural products, to import the required agricultural materials and equipment for farmers and to market their products as well.

The cooperative movement in Jordan continued to develop as new departments were created, such as the union for external auditing and a cooperative institute that were established in 1962. In 1967, and after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the cooperative movement lost two thirds of its societies there.

"In order to be able to operate after the 1967 war, a new cooperative movement was developed in the West Bank," Mr. Abu Youssef said. "As a result, the Department for Cooperative Construction was liquidated and the different sections and departments that were operating before such as the auditing union and the cooperative institute, were merged together under one main body which is the Jordan Cooperative Organisation," he added.

Nowadays, the JCO has eleven operating offices and directorates in different districts of Jordan, and over 500 employees are working in the different sections and departments of the organisation. These sections are the Cooperative Bank, the Cooperative Department, the Accounting Department and the Cooperative Institute.

The Jordan Cooperative Institute was established to train employees and members of the cooperative societies. Mr. Abu Youssef said, at present, he explained, the institute is a community college and different courses and subjects are given regularly such as economics, statistics, cooperative accounting, cooperative management, banking management and cooperative management for fisheries.

Mr. Abu Youssef said that cooperative education and publicity are also among the institute's responsibilities. Different seminars on population issues and publicity campaigns have been held at the institute during last year and more are being held regularly for farmers and different cooperative societies members.

rove production, the development of consumer cooperative societies, the development of services provided by the organisation and range development.

The organisation also owns an agricultural machinery station and a seed cleaning and improvement station and is helping to provide clean and improved seeds to the farmers as well as introducing agricultural machinery to help cultivate the dry areas.

"Many cooperative projects were also planned by the JCO in order to develop forage plantation and upgrading the productivity of grain planted land through the modern agricultural methods," Mr. Abu Youssef said.

JCO resources of finance are both external and internal and it operates now with JD 2,422,441 as paid capital. "The Jordanian government contributes every year with JD 55,000 for the organisation besides its continuous support in different fields," Mr. Adnan Yassin, head of the Project Section at the JCO told the Jordan Times. Also, members of the cooperative societies pay a share capital on yearly basis to the JCO which adds to the paid up capital.

Numbers, types of societies

External loans

As for the external resources, Mr. Yassin explained that the JCO receives loans from three sources: the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the German Bank for Reconstruction (KfW). "The loans given to us from IFAD are worth \$10,600,000 and are due to be paid back after twenty years," Mr. Yassin said. "Part of this amount will be spent as loans, both seasonal and medium-term, to the cooperative societies, in order to improve crop production, to buy tools and equipment and to provide the food and concentrated products for livestock," he added.

Mr. Yassin continued that the loan from KfW, whose value is DM 10 million, will be also given to the farmers as medium-term agricultural loans. As for the loan from EIB, which is worth three million European Currency Units, which is equal to JD 31 million, it will be used for the organisation's purposes. This loan, Mr. Yassin explained, will be spent by the organisation to build warehouses, to build a machinery station in Irbid, to establish two stations for seed cleaning and improvement and to send the employees and the members of the organisation abroad to get specialised training courses in their fields.

The JCO, and on behalf of the government of Jordan, supplies the farmers with barley and bran for their animals at subsidised prices. The organisation, Mr. Abu Youssef continued, established a parallel market to supply the consumer directly or through the consumer cooperative societies with moderate priced commodities such as fruits and other food stuffs. The JCO is investing in different projects that aim to im-

'Jordan-PLO accord offers last chance'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Mubarak said the PLO had made contacts with the Soviet Union and other European countries on peace moves.

"We call on the U.S. to have talks with the joint (Jordanian-Palestinian) delegation so we can pave the way for further steps," he said.

Despite the obstacles, Mr. Mubarak said he would push for a direct U.S. role in peace talks but added: "I cannot guarantee I will succeed."

King Hussein, accompanied by Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Tahir Al Masri, flew to this Red Sea town early Wednesday and held talks with Mr. Mubarak and a high-level Egyptian delegation including Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazaleh and Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif.

The Egyptian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ihab Wahbe, also accompanied the King and attended the talks. Jordan's ambassador to Egypt, Hussein

Amami, also attended the meeting.

It was King Hussein's second visit to Egypt since Jordan resumed diplomatic relations with Cairo last September, after a five-year break following the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli separate peace treaty.

Hundreds of Hurgada residents cheered King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak as they drove through the town's streets. Streamers strung across the streets bore slogans hailing the Jordan-PLO agreement and saying "Peace Is Our Common Aim."

The King and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman later Wednesday. Israel has expressed interest in Mr. Mubarak's proposals for reviving peace talks but has ruled out any negotiations with the PLO or an Arab delegation including PLO members.

The Israelis have also opposed any preliminary dialogue which excludes them. Israel has called for direct talks between Jordan and the Jewish state on the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Wednesday, the Associated Press quoted an unidentified sen-

ior Israeli official as saying Israel would not react officially to King Hussein's and President Mubarak's statements in Hurgada. He said Israel would wait for an accurate text before responding.

In a speech at parliament on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Peres lashed out at hardliners in his own government who rejected Egypt's proposals, accusing them of getting "goosebumps" at the thought of peace.

Mr. Peres was defending his policies against parliamentary motions of no-confidence by left-wing opposition parties. Three motions were defeated by a show of hands, and the fourth, which was on economic issues, fell by a vote of 50-14.

Mr. Peres said President Mubarak's call "should be dealt with seriously, without clowning around" with internal party politics.

Left-wing parliament member Chaika Grossman of the Mapam Party criticised the government for responding meekly to Mr. Mubarak's proposals.

"It seems to me the Palestinians have reached the conclusion that a political solution is worthwhile and that they cannot solve their problem militarily," she said.

JMA conference tackles health delivery, issues

Ajlouni calls for national medical research council

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni Wednesday stressed the necessity of setting up a national medical council for conducting scientific research aimed to develop society and to meet the community's health requirements.

In an inaugural speech at the fourth Jordanian medical conference, which started here Wednesday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, Dr. Ajlouni said that the universities of Jordan, the Royal Medical Services and the Ministry of Health, in addition to the private sector, must coordinate with each other in presenting medical research and scientific studies for such a national council.

Dr. Ajlouni, who deputised for King Hussein, pointed out the ministry's efforts to bridge the gap between number of doctors and citizens. He said that statistics show that there is currently one working doctor for each 3,000 citizens in the northern part of the Kingdom, whereas in the southern region every 1,500 citizens has a doctor. Dr. Ajlouni said that the ministry aims to provide one doctor for every 1,000 citizen by the end of this year.

Dr. Ajlouni also stressed the need to develop medical services including preventative medicine, develop hospital services, establish nursing and para-medical institutes in all regions of the Kingdom in order to provide locally-trained staff for each region. He added that this would secure psychological and financial facilities for the workers.

President of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Hassan Khreis, president of the conference's executive committee Fu'ad Keilani and University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali also delivered speeches in which they underlined the positive and negative aspects of Jordan's medical service developments for the last three decades. Dr. Khreis suggested setting up integrated medical scientific libraries containing audio-video telecommunication centres in order to keep in touch with the latest international developments in medicine.

Dr. Khreis said that the JMA has been following the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip regarding

medical care. He cited the Israeli oppressive and arbitrary measures aimed to perish the Arab medical institutes as the major factor behind the worsening medical care in the West Bank.

Dr. Keilani said that Jordan is witnessing a qualitative and quantitative jump in the medical services field. He said the conference comes as part of the medical sectors contribution to continuous medical teaching. There are medical scientists from the United States, England, the Soviet Union, France, Austria and several Arab countries, including Jordanian expatriates, taking part in the conference, Dr. Keilani said. Eighty working papers are due to be delivered in the three-day conference in addition to seminars on maternity and child care and bilharzia, he said.

First day's seminar

The first day of the conference was dedicated to a seminar on "Medicine in Jordan by the Year 2000" in which Dr. Ajlouni, dean of the Medicine Faculty at the University of Jordan Fu'ad Sayegh, Abdul Raheem Omran, professor of General Health in the United States, Dr. Khreis and Brigadier Na'el Al Ajlouni, vice-president of the Royal Medical Services, delivered various working papers on medicine in general and in Jordan in particular.

In his working paper, Dr. Ajlouni explained the current misdistribution of medicine saying that most of Jordan's medical budget goes on unnecessary specialised medical centres, whereas a small share goes for the basic preventive medical requirements.

He said: "It is time that a chart should be drawn up to organise the local medical distribution process. Jordan has a lack of specialised doctors and a surplus of newly graduated doctors." Dr. Ajlouni added that Jordanian universities must coordinate with each other in order to curb the

numbers of students studying medicine.

He also mentioned lack of nurses and midwives and explained the ministry's measures to increase their numbers. Two new para-nursing institutes were opened in Irbid and Zarqa in 1985 and another one is due to start soon in Karak as part of a national scheme to encourage nursing in the Kingdom, Dr. Ajlouni said. Statistics given by Dr. Ajlouni show that there are 150 round-the-clock maternity and child care centres in the Kingdom, whereas in 1984 there were only 99 centres.

Infant mortality

He said that only 40 per cent of delivery cases are medically supervised and 64.4 per cent of infants face death due to the lack of medical care. Dr. Khreis added that the lion's share of medical care, which is 80 per cent, is centred in the capital. He pointed out that the medical sectors independence leads to higher costs for medical treatment and a drop in health standards. About 50 per cent of the abilities of the private sector doctors are wasted due to mal-distribution of services, Dr. Khreis concluded.

Dr. Omran outlined his theory on the "epidemiological transition." The theoretical paper is divided into four sections according to the ratio between the birth rate and infant mortality. The first section is the "classical transition chart," which according to Dr. Omran, was triggered in Europe after the industrial revolution some 200 years ago. The second is the "accelerated model" which is applied in Japan and the Far East and the "delayed model" which is currently working in the developing countries, specially in the Arab World. The fourth is called the "transitional delayed method" which is used in advanced developing countries such as Taiwan.

Brig. Kamel Ajlouni spoke about the Royal Medical Services since the 1950's and the improvement it has achieved. He said about 30 per cent of the citizens are benefiting from military health services. He emphasised the economic side of medical and health services saying that the medical budget should range from 6 to 25 per cent of the general budget of a country.

Arar reviews Zarqa development issues

ZARQA (Petra) — The cities development corporations are a back-up for municipalities in their task to provide improved services to the public, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar.

Mr. Arar was speaking at a meeting with the president and members of the Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) on Tuesday attended by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir.

Mr. Arar said that the traffic congestion in Zarqa will be resolved with the completion of a circular road which will divert transit traffic outside of the city's boundary. He said that the Zarqa-Amman highway will also be provided with crossing junctions for traffic, flyover bridges for pedestrians and will soon be lit with streetlights.

Regarding pollution of the Zarqa River, he said that with the completion of the Ain Ghazal-Khreibet Al Samra sewerage pipe, farmers will then be allowed to grow vegetables along the river banks and adjacent fields.

He said that state-owned lands will soon be divided into shares and allotted to citizens at reasonable prices. Mr. Arar also promised that 200 dunums of these lands, near Yajouz, will be allotted for the construction of a sports city.

The minister also tackled a number of issues pertaining to the

Zarqa district and said that the Zarqa area will be upgraded into a governorate as of next year.

Earlier in the meeting, the president of the ZDC, Dr. Tayseer Amari, reviewed the corporation's planned projects and said that the ZDC is in need of both moral and financial support to enable it to fulfil its ambitions to improve the environment of the city.

He also called for an amendment to the ZDC charter and suggested raising funds through donations and by rallying public support for the corporation.

The meeting was attended by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Dib, the chief of police and a number of the city's officials.

Heated debate arises from discussions on official literary, cultural magazines

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate on "The Role of Cultural Magazines and Publications issued by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities in the Cultural Movement of Jordan" broke out Wednesday at the League of Jordanian Writers.

The panel discussed the role of the four cultural magazines which were issued under the auspices of the Department of Culture and Arts, which is operating under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities.

Dr. Haqi Al Amad, director of the University of Jordan's library and former director of the Department of Culture and Arts, said that the magazine Afkar was the first publication to be issued by the Department of Culture and Arts in 1966 and was its first literary publication. Afkar was a quarterly publication although it was recently announced that Afkar will be published monthly despite the fact that it was stopped five months ago.

"Popular Arts", a quarterly magazine that issued 13 publications, never saw light again after the Department of Culture and Arts was separated from the Ministry of Information in 1977. Another magazine, Al Founoun which did not last long dis-

appeared from the bookstands after its third issue. A fourth magazine, Al Shabab, faced the same destiny and was stopped.

Dr. Amad said that these magazines which were stopped from being published reflect a state of imbalance in the general education policy of the government.

"I believe that as soon as a new minister or high government official receives a new post in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Antiquities, his personal policy contradicts with the previous policy of the former officials who used to issue these magazines," Dr. Amad said. He added that "there is a gap between the cultural movement and the way the ministry regards culture via a vis how intellectuals regard culture."

Mr. Mohammad Abu Hassan, prominent Jordanian writer commented on the cultural movement in the Kingdom saying that these publications published by the Department of Culture and Arts faced both success and failure. However, he added that such publications had a limited effect on the society. "They did not introduce the local literature, arts and culture to the world as well as failing to keep a fixed standard of cultural and intellectual material in these publications," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan stressed the fact that literary publications should emphasise struggle and should try to solve the problems of our

society in a practical way.

Dr. Samir Outami, a member of the Faculty of Arabic Literature at the University of Jordan, said that the cultural thought in Jordan is "unidentified and lost." He added that this trend to neglect literature is practised deliberately.

Dr. Outami said that Afkar has left no cultural trace in the cultural life of Jordanians, mainly because the magazine itself had no defined structure or policy regarding its cultural contents. He added that Afkar faced a lot of problems which negatively affected its contents and message. He said that the problems were the continuous change of its board of directors and editors and mainly because it was tied to the minister of culture and with the Department of Culture and Arts directors. Each of these two officials used to stop the issuing of Afkar to remould it in the way they wanted Afkar to be published. Dr. Outami challenged any responsible official who is able to put a defined set of goals or strategies for the publication of Afkar.

He added that in order for Afkar to be republished, a defined goal should be set for it as well as a wise management that is capable of keeping up with the standard of professional magazines, especially since officials have announced that Afkar will be reissued soon. Afkar has not been published since Oct. 1984.

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Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Senior Editor: RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21071 ALRAI JO

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Time for diplomacy

THE MEETING yesterday between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak should help bring some order to the rather wide open state of Middle Eastern diplomacy. For reasons known only to them, the Egyptians have been very quick off the mark with proposals on how to reinvigorate the "peace process", though we should stay close to the ground and reality and remember that only Egypt and Israel have been involved in a "peace process". Bringing in other Arab parties in direct negotiations with Israel is a noble goal, but such a process has to be handled with extreme discretion and prudence. There are obvious problems with Egypt's taking the lead in this respect, the main one being that all but four Arab states do not have diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Therefore, we see the talks between the Jordanian and Egyptian leaderships as an important step on the road towards a thorough and sophisticated analysis of what the Arabs are trying to achieve at this stage of the game, whom their diplomatic targets are, and how the Jordan-PLO accord and a diplomatically excited Egypt all fit into one another's plans. Most of this work has to be done in private. The best thing that Jordan, Egypt, the PLO and other Arab parties could do now is to consult privately and agree on a diplomatic strategy, with a clear division of labour among the parties. Our first priority should remain to gauge and test the willingness of Israel and the United States to adopt more flexible postures, to see if there is any hope in a negotiated peace. We suspect there is, but we won't find out through newspaper interviews. This is the time for a serious, detailed, realistic diplomatic strategy, which the Arabs could all support.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King's message part of coordination

KING HUSSEIN'S message to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat came with in the framework of continued consultations and coordination between the two sides. The message carried the outcome of the King's talks with a PLO delegation which visited Amman over the past two days.

The message contained a reiteration of Jordan's strong belief in the role which the PLO should play and in the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and their just struggle and endeavours to regain their homeland. Any move to solve the issue should be based on the full Palestinian representation, otherwise all doors will be found closed in the search for peace.

The PLO is being fully backed by Jordan as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people and the visit to Amman by a PLO delegation and the King's message to Arafat were to emphasise this fact. The visit and the message came in time amidst the current developments in the region to stress the common objectives and close coordination between them.

Both the Jordanians and the Palestinians are determined to reach a formula with which to face all eventualities and above all to abort all Zionist plans in the occupied lands.

Al Dustour: Towards joint peace offensive

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Egypt starting Wednesday and his talks with President Hosni Mubarak are of great significance for the Middle East region. They constitute another step towards crystallising a joint Arab stand that seeks the establishment of a just peace.

The visit gains added importance because it comes on the eve of the president's visit to the United States, where he is expected to take up the Middle East issue in his talks with President Reagan. The president will surely be talking to the American leaders about the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed on Feb. 11, referring to it as the basic point on which peace should be founded.

President Mubarak has recently made statements in which he stressed the importance of the agreement and called for support from Arab and world nations for it, because it represents a new opportunity for the establishment of peace.

Jordan and Egypt, in view of their positions and their proximity to the Palestine problem, have both realised before others the importance of reactivating efforts for reaching peace, and for liberating the Arab people from Israeli occupation rule. We therefore hope that the new meeting between the two leaders will yield more fruitful results and strengthen bilateral relations still further.

Sawt Al Shaab: Cowardly, defeatist act

IRAN DID not have to resort to barbaric attacks on the Iraqi city of Basra to prove to the world its aggressive nature and its hostility towards the Arab Nation. The Iranian regime made no secret of its intentions over since its forces launched the war in 1980.

The bombardment of civilian targets in Basra is a cowardly act and reflects the deep sense of desperation and total impotence of the Iranian regime. This feeling resulted from the heroic stand of the Iraqi people in their defence of their homeland and the mighty power of the Iraqi armed forces that thwarted Iran's dreams of imposing hegemony on the whole Gulf region. This Iranian action also reflects total disregard to the Iranian people themselves because, in retaliation, the Iraqis will have to shell civilian centres inside Iran to silence the Iranian guns.

We cannot expect Iraq to remain impassive in the face of Iran's barbaric actions against the civilians in Basra and sooner or later the Iraqis are to bombard Iranian cities. By resorting to shelling civilian centres in Iraq, the Iranian regime proved its hysterical mentality before the world and exposed its weakness to encounter the Iraqis in the battlefield. Such action could be expected from a country which has found itself totally isolated from other world nations as a result of its inhuman actions and its desire to prolong the war and the bloodshed.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

No gain or loss in England's decline?

By Franz Schurmann

ONCE AGAIN the dollar is showing extraordinary strength. Very soon \$1 will equal £1. Cecil Rhodes and Winston Churchill must be turning in their graves.

European currencies have continued to fall vis-a-vis the dollar, but not like the pound sterling. Over the last year the mark and the franc have fallen about 15 per cent, but the pound fell 21 per cent! From 1982's to 1983's end, the yen fell a little and this time it fell further: 7 per cent. Yet nothing like the European currencies. Other Far Eastern currencies have remained quite stable. The Hong Kong dollar fell less than 1 per cent and the Singapore dollar 2 per cent. Malaysia's historically strong dollar fell only 3 per cent.

There is an immediate explanation for the larger Japanese drop. During the last

year, responding to opportunity and to American pressure, Japan has entered the international capital markets. And now it is paying a price. As a full member of the club, its yen is being shaken about just like the other European currencies. But not as much because Japan is located in the strongest economic region on the globe: East Asia.

But why has Britain's venerable old pound sterling done so badly? Here again we have an answer. One of the leading actors in this world financial drama has been oil. Oil did not start the inflationary spiral. It began in 1967 because of the Vietnam War and rapidly rising wages (outstanding productivity in the U.S.). But then oil stepped in and played the key role in the skyrocketing of the inflation rate. The worse the inflation got, the weaker

the dollar became.

European currencies were quite strong in the latter 1970's, but the dollar remained weak. And, significantly, the inflation rate went down in Europe but stayed high in the U.S. In October 1979, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board Paul Volcker dramatically changed policy. He was determined to destroy inflation in the American economy. He succeeded, brilliantly.

What did that victory have to do with oil? It was clear to all that there was a direct connection between oil prices and inflation. Oil enters into every aspect of production, marketing, and consumption in the world. Everytime anyone in the world turns on a light, he or she uses oil. Volcker understood that the key to breaking the back of inflation was

to drive oil prices down. As chairman of the powerful Federal Reserve Board, he could not accomplish that because it was an international political problem. It was Mr. Reagan and his clever advisers who accomplished this feat.

U.S. oil companies began to carry out a policy of buying oil here, there, and everywhere without dependency on any single source. No more oil alliances, such as the oil companies once had with Saudi Arabia or Britain had with Iran. As a result, oil competition began to soar. All oil producers, greedy for money, began to vie with each other. Even Mrs. Thatcher got into the act (and relations between Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan cooled considerably after the Falklands/Malvinas war). Predictably, oil prices went down and so has the inflation rate in

the U.S.

Mrs. Thatcher bet heavily that North Sea oil sold to the U.S. at healthy prices would help pull Britain out of its economic difficulties. Instead the U.S. oil companies lowered oil prices until Britain, in desperation, also lowered its prices earlier last year and so undercut the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Now OPEC is on its last legs. The ludicrous move by Iran raising oil prices is just some shadow playing on the stage.

Mr. Reagan won and Mrs. Thatcher lost! So international money investors are deserting the pound and flocking to the dollar. But Mrs. Thatcher's loss means much more. Over the last decades, despite economic weakness, Britain retained great financial strength. London was still one of the greatest

capital markets in the world. Now we may finally see the decline of London as a world financial centre. Already Tokyo, Hong Kong, and even Bahrain are snatching up the roles that London has lost. This may indeed be the "last hurrah" for what's left of the British empire.

Perhaps now England may once again revert to an island or even less if some of its parts like Northern Ireland go their own way.

There will be no gain nor loss for other nations in this decline of England. In the end there may even be gain for England for there still is an amazing energy and creativity amongst the English people. But when the pound finally sinks below the dollar we shall know it is the end of a great era in world history.

Maarake fighters determined to harass occupation troops

By Samir F. Ghattas
Associated Press

MAARAKE, Lebanon — The bearded Amal militia leader who was proud of attacks on occupation forces in South Lebanon surveyed the havoc Sunday from an Israeli raid on his village and threatened to carry resistance guerrilla warfare into Israel itself.

Khalil Jeradi, leader of the "Amal" militia here, gave his warning a sarcastic edge by referring not to Israel but to "Palestine," the name of Lebanon's southern neighbour before the founding of the state of Israel in 1948.

"We are serious from now on," Mr. Jeradi said. "When a village of ours and a fortress of ours is attacked, we are serious in attacking the villages of the Galilee in Pal-

estine."

His warning — and those of fellow "Amal" leaders — came as Israeli radio reported Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens said Israel would "crush the Khomenei terror" in South Lebanon.

While Israel's cabinet voted Sunday to continue its withdrawal from Lebanon, the threats by Levy and Amal officials promised no lessening of tension in occupied South Lebanon.

Mr. Jeradi talked to reporters in Maarake, 12 kilometres east of the port of Tyre, little more than an hour after Israeli forces ended a 24-hour siege in which they had rounded up hundreds of men for questioning.

He said Israeli forces took away 17 men from Maarake on Saturday but stressed those arrested were "ordinary people."

"They could not get any of the

wanted, and I consider this a victory," he said. "They could not find me. I remained in the village with my brothers watching everything. My house was searched thoroughly."

The roundup of Maarake Saturday was the latest — and largest — of a series of Israeli terror raids that followed an upsurge of attacks on Israeli occupation forces out of Tyre in an area now known as the "arc of resistance."

Reporters were kept out of Maarake during the Israeli siege that ended Sunday morning, but the aftermath seemed to indicate much the same pattern as the earlier raids over the past two weeks.

Four houses had been destroyed or damaged by dynamite or bulldozers. Villagers said one belonged to Mohammad Khalil, the brother of local Amal figure Hal-

The wreckage of two cars crushed by tracked vehicles remained in Maarake's battered main square. In the mosque, carpets were asked and there were torn copies of the Holy Koran.

Ibrahim Srouri, a 38-year-old villager, said the Israelis had shot in the air Saturday and used bulldozers to round up males from age 10 to 75 in a village school for questioning.

"They came in shooting. We confronted them with anti-Israeli slogans — 'Israel is absolute evil; Israel is criminal,'" Mr. Srouri said.

Mr. Srouri said his own house had been leveled in an Israeli raid a month earlier and that Saturday, for the second time, he was accused of being a "terrorist." He said he was beaten with a stick as Israeli intelligence agents stood by "laughing and eating apples."

The main question he was asked, Mr. Srouri recalled, was where Khalil Jeradi and other Amal leaders were. He said he replied, "Nobody but God knows."

Mr. Srouri said two French soldiers of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon UNIFIL tried to block the blowing up of one house by standing in it, but the Frenchmen left when Israeli soldiers said they would set off the explosive charge no matter who was inside.

UNIFIL has patrolled South Lebanon since it was sent in to help end a 1978 Israeli invasion, and French UNIFIL soldiers have gotten into several confrontations recently with Israeli forces over the destruction of houses.

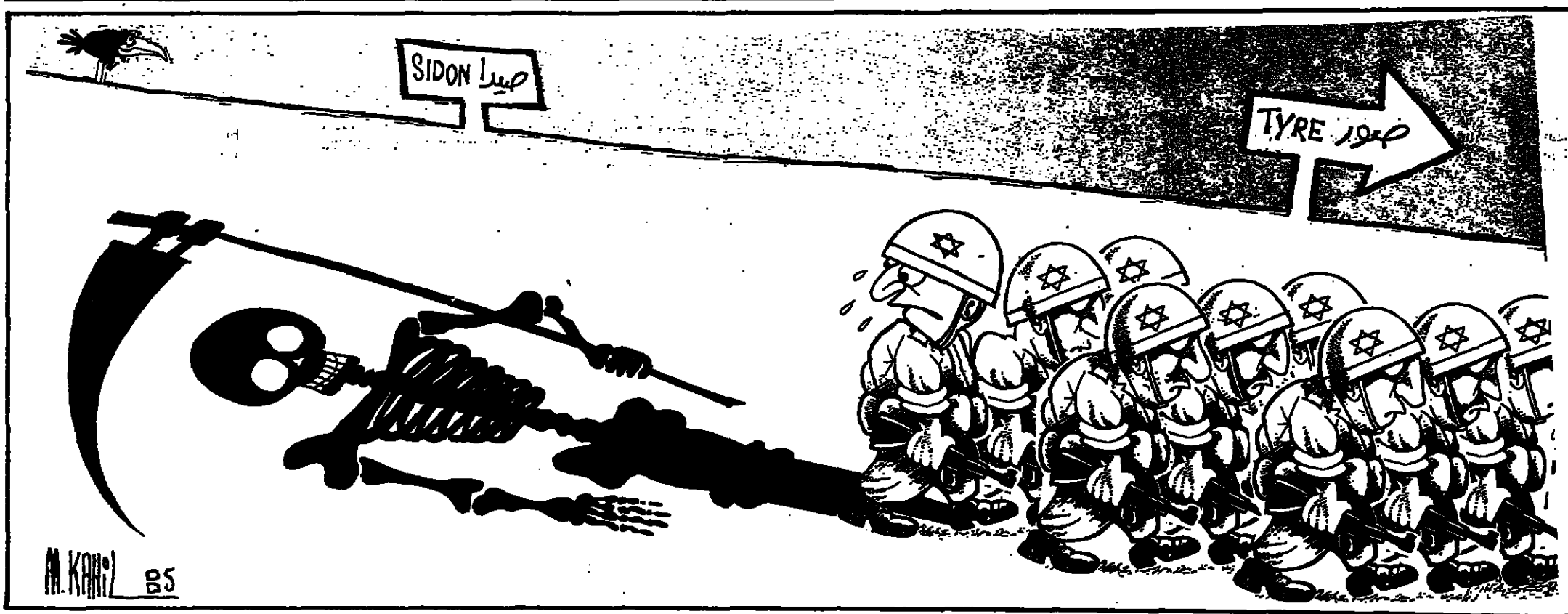
Israeli officials alleged Saturday night that their soldiers killed one suspected guerrilla in Maarake.

destroyed houses where weapons were found, and made arrests.

Mr. Jeradi said the man killed, Ali Akhbar, 22, who was shot outside the village without knowing it was under attack. He said the Israeli soldiers had mixed up the villagers' stores of rice, flour and other grains to make them useless.

Most of the Israeli soldiers who raided Maarake on Saturday left just after dark. But French UNIFIL troops said some stayed in the area overnight and a convoy of one Merkava tank, 23 armoured personnel carriers and four trucks came Sunday to pick up the remaining troops.

As the Israeli convoy departed just before 9 a.m., the Merkava tank ran through a small onion field in the neighbouring village of their Dibba.



U.N. conference to tackle plight of famine-hit Africans

By Claude Fillet
Reuters

GENEVA — A major United Nations conference convenes in Geneva next week to try to ease the plight of African countries suffering unprecedented drought which threatens the lives of millions of people, U.N. officials said.

Senior officials from some 160 nations have been invited to attend the U.N. Conference on Emergency Aid to Africa next Monday, with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar presiding.

The meeting is aimed at coordinating aid policies and working

out a unified, large-scale response to help the continent's 30 million drought victims, the officials said.

Donor countries would be asked to make new pledges to help cope with the crisis, they added.

U.S. Vice President George Bush is due to address the conference on his return from visiting Sudan, Mali and Niger.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has said some \$1.5 billion were required immediately to meet the urgent needs of Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad and another 17 affected countries.

A report by the U.N. Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA), a special task force set up last December by Mr. Perez de

Cuellar, said that of the 150 million people living in these countries, about 10 million had been forced to leave their homes and lands in search of food and water.

Up to half the refugees were overcrowded in temporary shelters and many were drifting to towns with no means of survival, the report said.

Internal transport posed major problems and the most difficult task was often to get supplies from the capital to the drought victims, it added.

The present crisis "shows little sign of abating in the near future, even if drought conditions were to

improve markedly during the next rainy season," the report said.

In Ethiopia alone, there were some eight million drought victims. Dramatic shortfalls in food production mean the country this year will need around 1.5 million tons in food aid — three times more than it got in 1984, the report estimated.

The U.S., which has greatly increased funds for food aid, has also gradually escalated its criticism of the Ethiopian government.

The conference is also to address problems sparked by vast movements of refugees. In Sudan, authorities are struggling to cope with a large influx of people fleeing drought and wars in neighbouring Chad and Ethiopia.

In Sudan, the report said, drought was affecting sorghum and millet crops and in all areas death tolls were increasing due to malnutrition and health complications.

In Chad, at least 1.5 million people — almost a third of the country's population — would depend on international aid for their survival, the report said. About 1,000 people were reported to die every month.

Thousands of farmers had fled to urban areas and by late 1984, the capital, N'Djamena, had taken

in some 70,000 people.

In Angola, where half a million people were in dire need of aid, one in three died before the age of five, the report said.

Some 1.2 million people were seriously affected in Mali, where this year's national cereal production was expected to drop by 50 per cent below normal.

In Mozambique, some 1.6 million people were seriously undernourished, the report said. Infant mortality was among the world's highest and basic drugs and vaccines were urgently required to fight disease, it added.

Elections and Kim's return highlighted media restrictions

By Granville Watts
Reuters

SEOUL — Anti-government candidates enjoyed almost total freedom of speech during South Korea's February elections but their critical remarks were given limited coverage in the local press.

If you wanted to see opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung's return from two years of exile in the United States you had to switch to the television channel serving the 40,000 U.S. troops here.

The two events have focussed attention on South Korea's media, heavily shackled by government restrictions, and led to fresh calls by opposition politicians for more press freedom.

Mr. Kim's return was a major, tumultuous event, which led to an

official apology to Washington for the roughing up by security men of Americans in a group escorting the dissident back home.

State-run television stations carried no film of it. The American network, in contrast, showed graphic shots of riot police battling with Mr. Kim supporters outside the airport and Mr. Kim's later press conference.

The South Korean press ran brief and virtually identical reports of Mr. Kim's return with no mention of the clashes or the violence against the Americans.

This was not because of any lack of interest in the affair, but strict government guidelines lay down what the press can and cannot publish.

Mr. Kim, confined to his home by police since his return on Feb.

8, says restoration of a free press is one of his highest priorities in seeking a return to full democracy.

He has been backed by a careful but outspoken article in the influential newspaper Chosun Ilbo which said the press was put in an embarrassing position during the elections.

"The more candidates enjoyed freedom of speech at rallies, the more the freedom of the press was bound to be felt," the newspaper said.

It said people who listened to campaign speeches critical of President Chun Doo Hwan's government must have distrusted newspapers which did not report them.

"We believe that the government and its party have now come to a point where they should

make an important change in their press policy," Chosun Ilbo said.

It likened the press to a tap which was turned on and off by government which "completely overlooked the reservoir, the very source of the water."

Mr. Kim, whose name was allowed to be mentioned for a while, is now a virtual non-person again, sitting in his modest suburban home under heavy police guard.

Only foreign reporters and relatives may visit him. The house is off-limits to Korean journalists and public alike.

The government has barred distribution of a copy of the American magazine Newsweek with Mr. Kim as its cover story.

Diplomats here say that while the government might relax political bans on Mr. Kim and other

dissident leaders, restoration of a free press is still a long way off.

Restrictions on reporting by governments obsessed with what they claim to be an ever-present security threat from North Korea have made the press here one of the most tightly controlled in Asia for 40 years. Hundreds of journalists were purged when Mr. Chun took power, although most of these have now been reinstated.

Only for relatively brief periods has authoritarian rule been relaxed, and with it the pressure on the media to conform to official guidelines.

One such period was during the election campaign when newspapers were allowed to reflect, at least in part, the free speech granted the politicians. But now the

situation is back to normal. The government is spared criticism because there are no opposition newspapers.

Although only one of Seoul's daily newspapers, the Seoul Shinmun, is government-owned, formal sanctions against journalists are not needed because everyone knows where the lines are drawn.

The press does give serious treatment to social and economic topics not covered by guidelines, challenging official handling of issues such as financial scandals.

But despite their large readerships — six newspapers are estimated to have circulations over half a million — they steer clear of detailed reporting on dissident activities.

U.S.-Israel 'free trade area' first of its kind

By Rodney Pinder
Renter

ROSSLYN, Virginia — The march of robots to the fronts of future warfare starts here, in a nondescript suburb of Washington.

Atop an unremarkable office block on the west bank of the Potomac River, within old-fashioned artillery range of the White House and Pentagon, is the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), generator for the highest of American military high technology.

The machines that will guard, or kill, the next generation on earth or in space may well have been thought of here.

Just now, DARPA is deep into research on super computers,

machines that could see, reason, learn from experience and speak — robots, in fact, which critics fear could ultimately give the arms race its most dangerous twist since the atomic bomb by taking over the nuclear trigger from the human finger.

"DARPA is unique. It is an institutional design for innovation," says Deputy Research Director Charles Buffalano.

He and some 90 other scientists are charged by the Defence Department with seeking technological revolution — as in the motto of the "Star Trek" television show, to boldly go where no one has gone before in order to keep America ahead.

Over 27 years, DARPA concepts or productions have included cruise missiles, submarine

laser communications, the high-speed computer, radar-proof "stealth" and forward-swept-wing aircraft, remotely piloted vehicles, over-horizon radar, "smart" munitions, laser technology crucial to President Reagan's "Star Wars" defence system, and Gallium Arsenide, a material which makes obsolete the silicon in the microchip.

With an annual budget of \$700 million, DARPA is the prime U.S. supporter of artificial intelligence research.

It is working on a vehicle that can navigate and steer itself, a navy command centre that can understand human — as distinct from computer — language, and a "pilot's associate", a machine that can converse with and advise a fighter pilot and organise his def-

ences while he flies.

DARPA trail-blazed away in relative obscurity until recently, when the importance of computers to modern warfare began to become a fashionable subject, in part because of Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" Strategic Defence Initiative.

Computers already are used throughout the military for weapons guidance, communications, early warning and war games. In 1983, DARPA began to push the frontiers with a five-year, \$600-million strategic computing research programme.

Critics denounced the project as dangerous, saying it suggested artificial intelligence could enable strategic weapons to be handled almost entirely by computer.

They were particularly fearful

over "Star Wars" which, as DARPA said in a 1983 report, projects such a rapid reaction to missile attack "that it is likely that almost complete reliance will have to be placed on automated systems."

One senator was reported so outraged at the idea that a robot could make armageddon decisions that he suggested R2-D2, of "Star Wars" movie fame, might as well run for president.

DARPA critics have called for automated warfare research to be abandoned before it is too late.

"That's a position which DARPA could not permit," said Mr. Buffalano in an interview in his office off a pastel-painted waiting room where piped music soothes visitors.

"Our charter is to explore any technology which provides a military advantage. It's then a political decision whether to use it in military systems."

DARPA was born in 1958 out of the trauma over the Soviet Satellite Sputnik, the first object launched into space.

"The agency was formed to make sure we have no more (such) technological surprises," Mr. Buffalano said.

He likens DARPA's researchers to bees, flitting around the country, cross-pollinating industry and military with ideas.

"A lot of what we do comes from asking people why can't you do it 10 times bigger, 10 times faster, 10 times more powerful at a 10th of the cost," he said.

What America's deficit financing policy means

This article was written for West German "Die Zeit" by former Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a member of the paper's editorial board.

The American economic recovery over the past 24 months has been largely based on other people's money. So has the president's economic view of the future.

This is a development which is as serious as the still-unresolved South American debt crisis.

How long can cash from other economies continue to be siphoned off to New York and Washington?

What will happen when the flow of foreign capital to the United States stops or even reverses?

A leading Western authority has warned of the seriousness of U.S. budget policy and its deficits, the resulting high interest rates and the exchange rate of the dollar.

Paul Volcker, of the Federal Reserve Board, showed a fine disregard for diplomatic niceties in addressing a U.S. congressional committee:

"In continuing to attract such a large part of the world's savings we are hampering economic expansion in the rest of the world..."

"The fact that we are in the process of changing from a creditor to a debtor country, and that at considerable speed, sounds the alarm more than enough..."

"There is a danger of a breakdown in the foreign capital inflow that has so far satisfied our heavy government and private demand for capital..."

"There are many instances in which too heavy debts have had grave consequences..."

These remarks are all very much to the point, as is Mr. Volcker's remark about the disastrously high level of the dollar's exchange rate and the impossibility of lowering this excessively high exchange rate by means of central bank intervention i.e. dollar selling, elsewhere in the world.

Mr. Volcker is one of the few economists in America who do not have a fixation on the domestic economic and fiscal consequences of ongoing deficit financing. He also tries to see the international economic connections.

That can hardly be said to have applied to former Finance Secretary Reagan or to the president.

And even if they are aware of international economic connections they are all too inclined to disregard them and despite the international economic threat to the United States to rely on their country's enormous political strength.

What they have so far succeeded in doing in ties with Japan, they blandly assume, will succeed with the rest of the world too.

Only this attitude of cheerful neglect can possibly account for the president not worrying unduly about his enormous deficits and, indeed, criticising Mr. Volcker in writing and calling on him to constantly increase the supply of money to the U.S. economy.

The Reagan administration is also expecting the U.S. budget deficit to decline to a mere \$144bn in 1988, the final year of the present four-year presidential term.

That is to say, it will amount to a mere \$144bn if Congress accepts the spending cuts proposed by the administration. Otherwise it will amount to a mere \$220bn.

In the process the average annual economic growth rate in the United States is expected to be four per cent in real terms, which is a sanguine assumption indeed.

Rudolph Penner, head of the Congressional budget bureau, has drily commented that if there is a recession, and not this long-term economic growth, in the years ahead the budget deficit could double to over \$400bn a year.

This figure may not seem very likely. Before the deficit reached this level, the pressure of circumstances would force Congress to make economies. But it is no less plausible than the two administration estimates.

Politicians are readily tempted to view budget deficits in GNP terms. By this yardstick the U.S. budget deficit and the way it is heading look far from good, but by no means appallingly bad, in com-

parison with other industrial countries.

Yet a far more important yardstick is the extent to which the government attracts the country's savings to finance its deficits, via interest rates, for instance, that are higher than others in need of capital are prepared to pay.

If, for instance, in a country the private sector, including business, were to save not a penny, there would be not a penny in savings to meet government demand.

If the government still wanted to borrow money, it would either have to have the central bank print it or to borrow it abroad.

Countries with a low private-sector savings quota thus have less debt leeway than countries with a high savings quota, and America's is the lowest of all major industrial countries.

Over the past two years savings have amounted to five to six per cent of net private incomes in the United States, as against 11 to 12 per cent in Germany and 18 per cent in Japan.

In other words, assuming commercial capital demand in the three countries to be equal in percentage terms the German budget could over the past two years have been allowed to run up a deficit twice as high, and the Japanese budget a deficit three times as high as America's.

These figures are arrived at in terms of the budget deficit as a proportion of overall savings.

In reality the public sector borrowing requirement in Japan amounted to 25 per cent of private savings in 1982, to 22 per cent in 1983 and is likely to have amounted to a similar figure last year.

The public sector borrowing requirement in Germany amounted to 40 and 30 per cent respectively, and the trend was toward further decline in 1984.

The U.S. public sector in contrast absorbed about 70 per cent of American private savings in 1982 and 1983 and looks like producing similar figures for 1984 and 1985.

In other words, as the Fed under Mr. Volcker has been consistent that would have left a mere 30 per cent of savings to meet the capital requirements of industry, commerce, housing and so on — far too little for economic recovery.

So capital has had to be imported and loans have had to be raised abroad to a great extent, and this continues to be the case.

In 1984 the net capital inflow was \$100bn — in keeping with the current account deficit. In 1985 the figure is unlikely to be lower. So U.S. foreign debts are rapidly increasing.

The world's richest country is at

this very moment crossing the borderline between net overseas creditor and net overseas debtor status, and in 1985/86 the Americans will be the world's leading foreign debtor, even outstripping Brazil.

The U.S. economy is naturally far larger and more buoyant than Brazil's, but just like Brazil the United States will in future no longer run up a net profit on invisibles. Instead it will have to remit more in interest and profits abroad than it receives.

Normally in such circumstances a country can only afford net capital transfers abroad to the extent that it nets a profit in trade in goods and services with other countries. Yet unlike Brazil, the U.S. economy is *not* running at a profit in this respect.

America would have to boost enormously its exports of goods and services and to cut back on imports.

Above all, the dollar exchange rate would need to be between a quarter and a third lower to cut the cost of U.S. exports and make imports from Japan and Western Europe, which are currently artificially inexpensive due to the high exchange rate of the dollar, relatively more expensive.

Some such trend in the exchange rate was expected when the dollar stood at DM2.60. It has now reached DM3.20 and no-one would care to forecast how much further it will rise or when it will start to fall.

There are three reasons for the unnaturally high dollar exchange rate:

— First, the need to finance the U.S. budget deficit has pushed interest rates up. If you invest your savings or undistributed profits in America rather than your own country you stand to earn an unusually high rate of real interest, which is a powerful incentive to do so.

— Second, there is a heavy private demand for capital and credit in the United States. U.S. companies are earning good money and can afford high interest rates while still being able to pay out handsome dividends.

U.S. consumers, can, incidentally, at least deduct high interest payments on loans to buy a new car or TV set from their taxable income. These factors are an equally powerful incentive for foreign investors.

— Third, many people in Japan, in Western Europe and even in South America are keen to invest part of their assets in the United States on a long-term basis because they have confidence in the long-term vitality of the U.S. economy.

Besides, they either feel the

external security of the United States is greater than that of their own country or export capital because they feel unsure of domestic trends in their own countries.

In all three cases capital invested in the United States leads technically to the same result. To buy U.S. Treasury bonds or commercial papers or real estate you must first change your yen or deutschmarks into dollars.

There is a brisk demand for dollars on exchange markets, and as Mr. Volcker refuses to print new money to meet demand, the supply does not increase correspondingly. So the dollar's exchange rate goes up and up.

The repercussions so far of U.S. deficit policies have been partly positive and partly negative for the rest of the world.

On the positive side, the U.S. budget deficit has generated an enormous boom in demand for goods and services from which Japanese and Western European industry have benefited (and jobs in Japan and Western Europe been created) just as much as the U.S. economy has done.

American industry has made use of this demand boom to rise to the occasion with unusual entrepreneurial aplomb, while U.S. workers have contributed unprecedented mobility and flexibility towards the recovery.

The budget deficit has restored the momentum of the American economy and given the Americans a self-confidence a tremendous boost.

On the negative side, interest rates are too high in Europe, in South America and elsewhere. There is too little real investment because the profits expected are in many cases relatively lower than high-interest returns on cash investments.

The capital goods and construction industries are underemployed. Unemployment is far too high.

All over the world the distortion of exchange rates brought about by the dollar has led to a growing distortion in world trade. All manner of subsidies and protectionist measures have already made half of world trade no longer subject to Gatt regulations.

If the dollar exchange rate were to fall at all fast there would be further enormous changes in world trade and employment.

South American countries' interest commitments on debts outstanding have risen faster than they can be met from foreign exchange earnings.

They are having to tighten the reins and keep people at home short of money while potential revolutionaries and dictators are at the ready.

Yet if South American debtor countries were not to meet their interest commitments, eased as they have been by rescheduling agreements, more would be at stake than their own creditworthiness.

They would be jeopardising the financial position of their creditor banks in New York, London and Frankfurt.

The narrowly averted collapse of the Continental Illinois Bank in Chicago was a foretaste of what could happen. Continental Illinois account-holders, some of whom were foreign nationals, only regained confidence when the U.S. government virtually fully guaranteed deposits.

But the state can arrive on the scene too late, and other mass psychology triggers are equally conceivable. One day the bubble will burst, the "Financial Times" wrote in a recent banner headline.

All reasonable people are bound to hope that never happens. All sensible governments must play their part in ensuring it doesn't. A crisis of confidence could lead to swift withdrawal of what is largely short-term capital investment in the United States, and one withdrawal can trigger another in next to no time.

U.S. banks would not be alone in being hard-hit. The dollar exchange rate would plummet, and with it the book value of dollar investments by Europeans, Japanese and Arabs.

Their holdings would decline drastically in value and their assets would shrink accordingly. So the damage outside America would probably be beyond control and unpredictable, and it would probably be greater than the harm done inside America.

In America, interest rates might go up again because capital was in short supply, and that could trigger a serious recession.

That is why the burgeoning dollar exchange rate must be brought to a halt and slowly reversed, which can only be achieved by reducing U.S. budget deficits (always assuming money supply is not to be increased to an inflationary extent).

Mr. Volcker was right in telling Congress to reduce the deficit as fast as it could and by as much as it could. Then, and then only, will interest rates and the exchange rate of the dollar decline.

There are two ways to set about reducing the deficit. Either revenue is increased or spending is reduced (or the two are combined).

President and Congress may feel, in view of the arms control talks with the Soviet Union, that for reasons of negotiating tactics

they have no opportunity at present of substantially reducing the enormously inflated U.S. defence budget (although views may differ on this point). But if this option is not available, then higher tax revenue will be inevitable. How else can the 1985 deficit be reduced by \$50bn, or a quarter? Besides, the much-vaunted target of cutting U.S. budget spending by \$50bn this year would only have a lasting effect if a substantial cut were made next year too. A reduction in the American budget deficit would naturally reduce the economic stimulus provided by U.S. government expenditure both in the United States and abroad.

A decline in demand for capital would naturally affect not only the real interest paid on dollar investments but also the dollar exchange rate.

Exports to America by the rest of the world would naturally be hit, whereas American exports would stand to benefit.

But lower interest rates would help South America to bear its debt fund burden and the re-imposition of military dictatorships would be a more distant prospect in many countries.

Lower interest rates would also lead to more job-creating investment in Europe, and several European countries (including the Federal Republic of Germany) could then probably increase their budget deficits slightly without running too great a risk.

It is quite conceivable that the initial overall, worldwide effect of the contractions brought about by reductions in the U.S. budget deficit might be more serious than was either necessary or economically tolerable.

Yet if, in view of these risks, Washington were to prefer to do nothing the world would be hit even harder. The longer it takes the budget surgeon to wield his scalpel, the greater the likelihood of the operation coming too late will be.

It is bad enough that the Bretton Woods international monetary system broke up because of mistaken budget policies in many countries. There must not be too much more destruction of this kind. In reality we are all in the same boat.

Henry Kissinger said last autumn that "because of our great economic power... our politicians and their voters imagine America is relatively impervious to international economic trends..."

"But we must overcome this dilemma if we are to surmount the world's chronic economic instability. The age we live in and the opportunities we have call for the United States to provide dramatic leadership."

Randa Habib's Corner

Better one smoker than two

DEAR SMOKERS, you must have surely tried, one day, to stop smoking. You had taken this decision after seeing one of those crude documentaries showing the bad effects of cigarettes or after a bad flu, or simply because you lost your voice quite often. The important thing is that you have decided to give up smoking and have taken all the necessary measures to implement this decision. The problem is not when you decide to stop smoking yourself, but when your mate is compelled to adopt this decision.

Let us say that one day the family doctor tells your husband to stop smoking because his lungs are starting to be affected. Since your husband is (was) a heavy smoker, you decide to help him. No more cigarettes at home... you ask your friends not to smoke in his presence: In short, you "purify" his environment. Or similar to this friend, you go to extremes like going to his office when he is not expecting you just to say "hello", while you are really inspecting the desk to see if there are any cigarettes or any smell. Or like this other friend, you follow him discretely in a car to make sure that he does not smoke while driving. At this stage, you could hire the services of a professional who would give you a detailed report about his actions and especially if he had smoked during the day. The outcome of all this is that you would become so tense from spying over your husband that you feel an urgent push to start smoking yourself. Be careful then.

WATER AUTHORITY BAQA'A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT CONTRACT NO. GA1/37/85 WADI ESSIR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT CONTRACT NO. GA2/38/85 Addendum No. 3

The following is Addendum No. 3 for both Baqa'a Sewage Treatment Plant (Contract No. GA1/37/85) and Wadi Essir Sewage Treatment Plant (Contract No. GA2/38/85). It shall replace Addendum No. 1 for Wadi Essir Sewage Treatment Plant and Addendum No. 2 for Baqa'a Sewage Treatment Plant which are hereby cancelled:-

Vol. I

1- Page CL-1 3rd paragraph: delete 31/3/1985 in "The bids are due... etc", and insert 2/4/1985.

2- Page IB-1 (1. INTRODUCTION): delete first two paragraphs and insert the following:-

The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of Baqa'a Sewage Treatment Plant and Wadi Essir Sewage Treatment Plant.

Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan must be prequalified as General Class water and sewerage contractors, building contractors, road contractors or electro-mechanical contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan.

Foreign bidders are strongly recommended to participate in bidding in joint ventures with local contractors rated as General or First Class contractors in the above categories by the Ministry of Public Works.

Jordanian General Class contractors, acting as prime contractors must associate with a qualified foreign specialist firm.

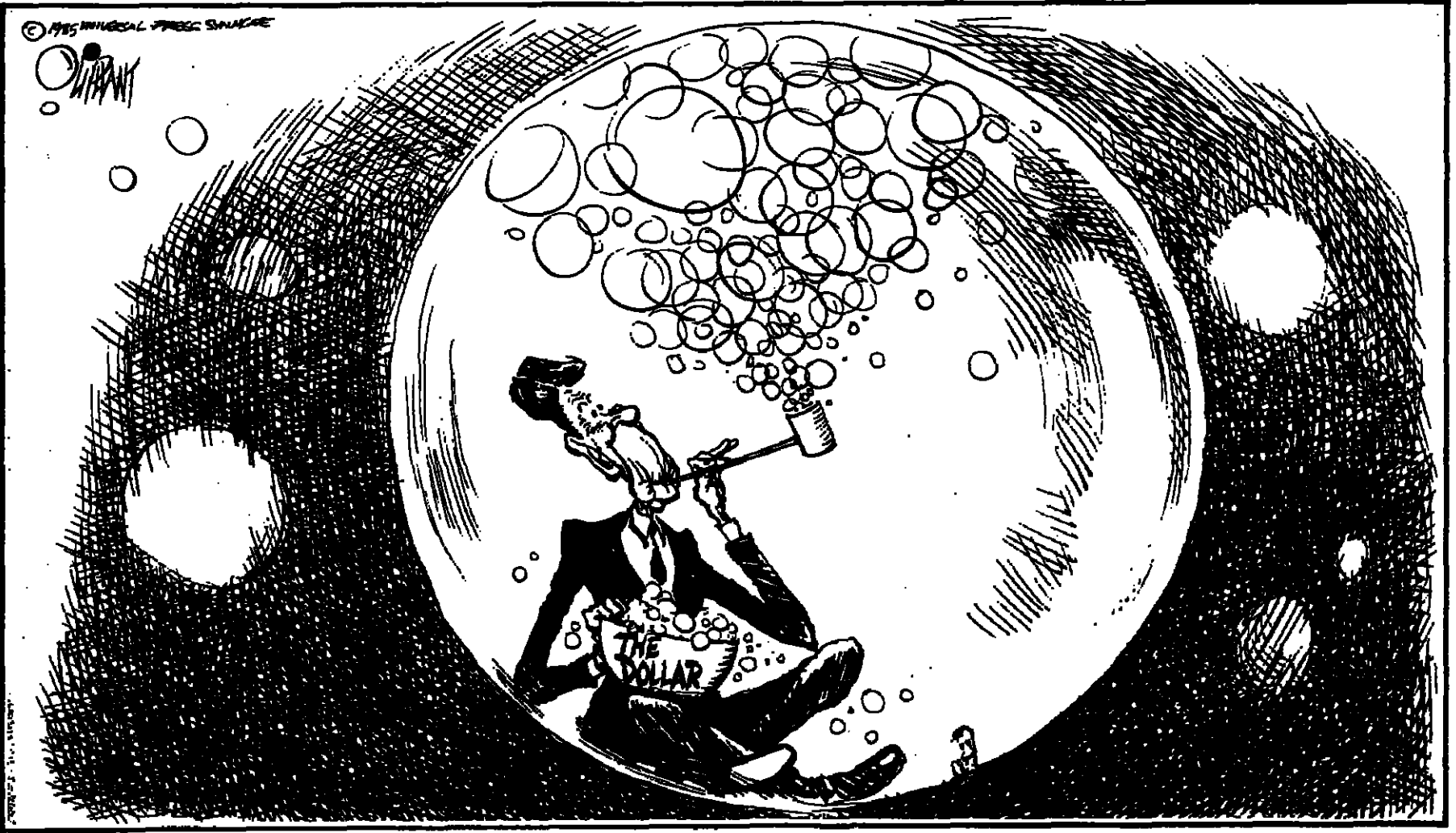
WATER AUTHORITY CONTRACTS OF WASTE WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR GREATER AMMAN

1. The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as General and First and Second Class Water and Sewerage Contractors and General Class Roads and Buildings Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the sewerage network mains sub-mains and house connections in Greater Amman as following:-
- 68/85 The contract SW-S1 consist 32 km ranging in size from 150 mm to 500 mm in Swelleh-Safout-Ain Al Basha.
- 69/85 The contract BO-S1 consist 57 km ranging in size from 150 mm to 600 mm in Baqa Camp.
- 70/85 The contract LW-S1 consist 26 km ranging in size from 150 mm to 300 mm in Lower Wadi El-Sir.
- 71/85 The contract T1-1 consist 27 km ranging in size from 150 mm to 500 mm in Tabarbour.
- 72/85 The contract SH-S1 consist 19 km ranging in size from 150 mm to 500 mm in Shniller Camp.
2. A prebid conference will be held on Sunday 24th March, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
3. On March 24, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the Instruction to Bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
4. The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Saturday 20th April 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
5. Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nabulus Street,
P.O. Box (2412)
Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 150 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 75 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank cheque.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority



Sweden firm favourites for Davis Cup — if they play

LONDON (R) — Davis Cup tennis champions Sweden look set to brush Chile aside when they open their title defence this weekend — if they get on court.

Two days before their world group first-round tie, scheduled to start in Santiago on Friday, three of the Swedish team were on the other side of South America.

Anders Jarryd, Henrik Sundstrom and Stefan Edberg, all ranked in the world's top 10, were in Rio de Janeiro awaiting an International Tennis Federation (ITF) ruling on their fate.

The players, frightened by Sunday's earthquake which killed over 100 people, left Santiago with team captain Hans Olsson saying they would prefer to forfeit the tie, one of eight in the world group this weekend, than play there.

Number one player Mats Wilander flew to the United States.

Sweden, unchanged since their triumph over the United States in the 1984 final in Gothenburg in December, should expect few problems against the newly-promoted Chileans despite the loss of practice time this week.

The Americans, seeded to meet the champions in the final, are likewise, tipped to rout Japan in Kyoto despite the absence of John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, the world's top-ranked players.

McEnroe has played 21 consecutive Davis Cup ties in six years and led the U.S. to four cup titles. He asked not to be selected for the Kyoto tie, but is expected to play in later matches if the U.S. win.

Connors has also opted out, but

captain Arthur Ashe has predicted singles players Eliot Teltscher and Aaron Krickstein and doubles pair Ken Flach and Robert Seguso will triumph 5-0.

Teltscher, 25, is the only team member with previous Davis Cup experience, but the rest may rest easy in the knowledge that Japan have never beaten the U.S. in seven ties.

Czechoslovakia, 1984 semi-finalists, are also forced to field an under-strength side against the Soviet Union in Tbilisi.

An ear infection, which could be aggravated by air travel, has confined Ivan Lendl to the United States, where he lives. Team captain Jan Kodes had already dropped Pavel Slozil, one of the world's leading doubles specialists, from the squad.

But Tomas Smid, Miloslav Mecir and Libor Pimek should be too powerful for opponents who lack international competition and experience — if they can withstand the near-freezing temperatures on Tbilisi's outdoor courts.

Third seeds Australia, the 1983 winners and one of the most famous names in Davis Cup history, travel to split to face Yugoslavia, who will be seeking revenge for their 5-0 whitewash in Perth a year ago.

Slobodan Zivojinovic and Marco Ostojic will lead the Yugoslavs on a specially-built indoor

clay court against Pat Cash, John Fitzgerald, Paul McNamee and Brad Drewett.

Both opening day singles were close in the first-round encounter last year, and even with cash in the squad this time, the visitors know victory will not come easy.

France, too, will need Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte on peak form on a fast wooden court in Asuncion to overcome Paraguay's Victor Pecci and Francisco Gonzalez, 3-2 winners in Paris two years ago.

West Germany, aware that victory would mean capacity crowds for the second round against the United States in Hamburg, rely on Davis Cup debutant Boris Becker, 17, and Michael Westphal to rebuff the promising young Spanish team in Sindelfingen.

One of the closest first-round ties, on paper at least, will be Argentina against Ecuador in Buenos Aires, where the key player is likely to be Andres Gomez.

Kuwait, Tottenham Hotspur to play in Amman Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national Kuwaiti football team arrived in Amman Wednesday to set up training camp in preparation of their bid for the 1986 World Soccer Cup.

Kuwait, 1982 World Cup finalists are here for a few days in which they will play Jordanian and foreign teams.

English first division team Tottenham Hotspur is due to arrive in Amman Thursday for the first match against Kuwait on Friday at Al Hussein Youth City stadium. Other English league clubs are due to play against Kuwait but they have not been named yet.

Navratilova survives tough 1st round

PRINCETON, New Jersey (R) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova fought off a stiff first-set challenge and went on to beat little known American player Ann Henrickson in the first round of the \$150,000 U.S. National Women's Indoor Tennis Championships Tuesday.

Navratilova, who admitted she had difficulty adjusting to the lights and the fast surface, fought back from a 3-5 deficit in the first set to win by 7-6 (7-2), 6-2.

Wendy Turnbull, the Australian veteran who is seeded second, also had one tough set before advancing to the second round. The 32-year-old player eliminated American Lisa Bonder 6-2, 7-5.

Pam Shriver of the United States and Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, the third and fourth

seeded players, advanced with impressive straight-set victories.

Shriver, returning to the tour after a three-month layoff due to a nagging shoulder injury, had her game on target in ousting Laura Arraya-Gildemeister of Peru 6-2, 6-3.

Mandlikova, who beat Chris Evert Lloyd in her last match, dropped only eight points on seven service games to steamroller fellow Czechoslovak Marcela Skuherska 6-0, 6-2.

Navratilova praised Henrickson for her fine play. In two previous meetings, she had trounced the stocky American by identical scores of 6-1, 6-1.

"She was hitting some pretty good passing shots that were well disguised," said Navratilova. "But when I had to make the big points, I was able to come through with them."

Navratilova, who switched rackets four times, looked ahead to better matches. "I'm sure I'll be playing better as the tournament progresses," said the three-time tournament champion, who meets Peanut Louie of the United States on Wednesday night in a second-round match.

Turnbull cruised to a 4-0 lead in the first set against Bonder and rallied from 0-3 in the second. Her second-round match will be against Stephanie Rehe, a 15-year-old American amateur.

Mandlikova takes on big-serving Alycia Moulton of the United States, who defeated Ann Minter of Australia 6-2, 6-1 in 45 minutes. Shriver faces a tough challenge against West Germany's Bettina Bunge.

Tyrrell, FISA agree to end feud

PARIS (R) — British Formula One team Tyrrell and the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) have ended their legal battle over alleged rules infringements and the team will compete in the 1985 World Championship, a joint statement said Wednesday.

Under the terms of an agreement hammered out after a series of meetings between team leader Ken Tyrrell and FISA President Jean-Marie Balestre, Tyrrell will drop its complex legal proceedings against the sport's governing body.

In return FISA will allow Tyrrell to take part in the 1985 Formula One series, the statement said.

There was no indication as to whether FISA had lifted the ban imposed last season after Tyrrell allegedly broke fuel regulations during the Detroit Grand Prix in June. FISA officials were not available for comment.

Motor racing sources said it seemed the announcement meant Tyrrell's forfeited 1984 championship points would be restored.

Tyrrell has been waging a battle in French civil courts to have the ban overturned and clear itself of the infringement charges but last month offered to drop legal proceedings if it were allowed to compete this year.

While FISA lawyers studied the offer, space was kept open for Tyrrell on the 1985 team list in case of agreement.

The statement said: "Ken Tyrrell, after several meetings with FISA President Jean-Marie Balestre, has taken the decision to

annul the proceedings which he has started in the civil courts.

"FISA and Ken Tyrrell would like to thank members of FOCA (Formula One Constructors' Association) for their support which has rendered possible this solution."

"FISA is therefore happy at the end to this conflict, which will permit a prestigious team, three times World Drivers' Championship winners and once World Constructors' Champions, to resume its place which it has earned in the World Championship."

Zico silent on return to Flamengo

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian soccer striker Zico refused to comment Tuesday on reports that he would return to his former club Flamengo.

But he confirmed he would not be playing for Italian club Udinese next season.

Meanwhile, fellow Brazilian international Paulo Roberto Falcão could be out of the game for another three months at least.

Zico, in Brazil to celebrate his

32nd birthday, said in a television interview: "I would like to play for a team able to fight for the title. Unfortunately, this is not the case with Udinese. Therefore, if I do not return to Brazil, I will sign for a top Italian club."

The Rio press has speculated that Zico would make a television commercial to announce he would return to Flamengo, after leaving the club for Udinese in June 1983 for an estimated \$4 million.

Soviets claim pairs title

TOKYO (R) — Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev of the Soviet Union recaptured the pairs title at the World Figure Skating Championships Wednesday night.

In a beautifully choreographed and technically brilliant display, the husband and wife team stamped their authority on pairs skating by overtaking compatriots Larisa Selezneva and Oleg Makarov, who beat them in the short programme Tuesday.

Selezneva and Makarov grabbed the silver medal with Canadians Katherina Matousek and

Lloyd Eisler third.

Earlier Wednesday, Kira Ivanova of the Soviet Union won the school figures in the women's event from U.S. champion Tiffany Chin with world, Olympic and European Champion Katarina Witt of East Germany precariously back in third place.

There was no change in the ice dance after the original set pattern dance, with Soviet couples Natalia Bestemianova/Andrei Butkin and Marina Klimova/Sergei Ponomarenko first and second.

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS	1 Gentle as a —	17 Bantock or Lugan	33 Lening disease	40 "Body meets a body"	41 —do—well	42 Quaker family	43 Mollon supporter	44 Smart	45 Pasture sound	46 Laggard	47 Spirit of a culture	48 Zolt title	49 Spoiled one	50 Robert of Scot.	51 Heavy shoe	52 Caliber	53 Places to save	54 Rabon d'—	55 Singer Paul	56 Testing place	57 Melvins	58 Dissolve	59 Hungry as a —	60 Bogus	61 Cant	62 Code or rug	63 Mosaic-like	64 Smooth	65 Soup vegetables	66 Grotcho													
DOWN	2 Town map	3 Punctuation mark	4 "A Death in the Family" author	5 "What's in it?"	6 Bartok or Lugan	7 Vagabond	8 Fatigues	9 Stray	10 Classic car	11 Verse	12 In a dry way	13 Waddle	14 Lening disease	15 FDR's pet	16 Marsh elder	17 Evasive	18 "Body meets a body"	19 —do—well	20 Quaker family	21 Mollon supporter	22 Smart	23 Pasture sound	24 Laggard	25 Spirit of a culture	26 Zolt title	27 Spoiled one	28 Robert of Scot.	29 Heavy shoe	30 Caliber	31 Places to save	32 Rabon d'—	33 Singer Paul	34 Testing place	35 Melvins	36 Dissolve	37 Hungry as a —	38 Bogus	39 Cant	40 Code or rug	41 Mosaic-like	42 Smooth	43 Soup vegetables	44 Grotcho

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MACAW	GLASP	HOME
OMEGA	OMAN	EDAM
GILVER	OBIO	FOUND
ESSE	ESDO	SPURGE
BLADE	CLAISON	
PERTWIG	OGILE	
IVIAN	CHENIE	PET
STILES	WELT	STAIR
ALLE	WHALES	ETON
ACIENATE	ENSURE	
OTIVERTY	ERISNE	
OVER	ELBA	TYSTLE
ETINE	ADOLE	MA
EGITO	SONE	TRYST

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For information call on us at the building or call 663936.



WATER AUTHORITY ADDENDUM No. 2

The Water Authority announces for the contractors who have bought copies of tender documents of RAMTHA Waste - Water reclamation facility contract No. (R3/34/85) that

Addendum No. 2

is now available at the Water Authority office.

President
Eng. Mohammad S. Kilani
Water Authority, Jordan.

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677420

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(Colour)

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 10:30

Cinema A-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

EXECUTION OF A DEAD MAN

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155

OSTERMAN WEEK END

(Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 22117

I.Q. ZERO

(Colour)

Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- MAHAN 2- OCTOPUS

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

RAIDERS OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.0575/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4030/05	Canadian dollars
	3.4205/35	West German marks
	3.8700/30	Dutch guilders
	2.9190/210	Swiss francs
	68.82/87	Belgian francs
	10.4450/550	French francs
	2125/2129	Italian lire
	261.55/70	Japanese yen
	9.6600/800	Swedish crowns
	9.7500/650	Norwegian crowns
	12.2250/400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	286.60/287.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firm on institutional demand and further encouraged by the recent spate of better than expected company results, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT was up 11.6 at 1,286.5.

BTR gained 23p at 667 following its annual results and a one for one scrip issue. Midland Bank gained 10p to 369 after its full year figures but later declined to 347 on profit-taking while General Accident dropped 5p to 538 having reported results below market expectations.

Government bonds gained up to 5/16 point while gold shares were easier and North Americans mixed.

Barclays dropped 12p to 582 on fears that Thursday's results may be accompanied by a rights issue while Commercial Union was unchanged at 177 ahead of its figures.

B.P. gained 8p to 548 also reporting annual figures Thursday and Unilever extended Tuesday's 80p advance, up 5p at 1,255, following Tuesday's higher than expected full year results.

Dunlop rose 5 1/2p to 51 following news it may sell its U.S. tyre interests while GEC was unchanged at 198. GEC said it had purchased around nine million of its own shares Tuesday at 197p.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS. MARCH 7, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day and evening to consult with older or more experienced persons just what you can do to have a greater amount of success over a considerable period of time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day and evening to handle the work responsibilities you have agreed to perform, whether at home, office or in the outside world.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make those arrangements now for fun and relaxation in the near future and relieve tensions you are under.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Endeavor to get home conditions improved even if you have to step out and buy new mechanisms.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Shop around for whatever is needed so that you can operate more efficiently whether at home or at place of business.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Try to improve your book-keeping system so that it becomes simpler and more accurate. Keep up with the times.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Some plan that has not been working well in the past can now gain momentum and you gain benefits. Try to revive some old friendship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Analyze your situation accurately and know how close you are to gaining your aims and what needs to be done now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Confer with an intelligent friend who can give good advice how to gain your personal aims. Be careful in motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Any outside problems need to be studied better before trying to handle them. Allies can give good suggestions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you listen to what those of different experience to your own have to suggest, you get many opportunities to advance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are concerned with principles but this is the time to get right down to the work at hand.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have long talks with outside partners and come to a fine understanding on the practical level. Not a good day to go on a trip.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your relations with other persons today is important and it is odd that at one moment you will seem to be getting along fine and the next moment some problems arise.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to come to a better understanding with partners over some agreement to be made and all works out well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Co-workers may work in a different fashion than you, so do not interfere. Show that you are understanding and kind.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Friends may not agree on which pleasures or sports to enjoy, but let the majority rule and you can have a good time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) The situation at home keeps changing from pleasant to not so pleasant, but take this in your stride.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Give much thought to the communications at hand since they are important and you do not want to make any mistakes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You understand how to improve your property and should also listen to suggestions of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make revisions to that personal plan you had formulated if you want it to work well. Gad about town in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A quiet plan you have to gain a cherished goal can only work if you are willing to make certain revisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure you know what new acquaintances expect of you and don't be pressured into anything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You had better recheck your civic duties since there may be ramifications you had not counted on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have a plan that is sound but needs further study before you can put it in operation successfully.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You had better work out that new plan sensibly since your intuition is apt to fluctuate. Be affable.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is innately gentle and can understand others very well and must have good cause before lending assistance to anyone. Your progeny will do well in whichever vocations call for precision. Teach not to procrastinate nor to vacillate, but to persevere intelligently.

Syria wants to revise trade pact with Japan

TOKYO (R) — Syria Wednesday called on Japan to revise their 1953 commerce pact as part of ways to expand their economic relations, a government official said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara told International Trade and Industry Minister Keijiro Murata the pact had become obsolete. He made no concrete proposals, the official said.

Mr. Al Shara also called for measures to rectify a huge trade imbalance with Japan, establishment of a government-level joint committee to discuss economic ties, and the signing of a protocol to promote joint ventures, he said.

Mr. Murata said the ministry could not revise the pact on its own. The issues would be taken up when Al Shara met Japanese Foreign Minister Shiroto Abe.

He was quoted as saying his ministry would study the idea of a joint committee and what items Japan could import from Syria.

It was difficult for Japan to sign a protocol on joint ventures because its economy was based on private enterprises, he added.

Syria imported \$120 million worth of Japanese goods, mainly machinery, and exported to Japan only \$5 million worth of goods such as cotton in 1984.

Mr. Al Shara began his six-day visit Tuesday.

Dhaka calls for 'devotion, hard labour and sacrifice'

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's minister for commerce and industries said the country must raise exports during the coming year to cover growing import bills.

The country expects to earn \$860 million during the financial year ending next June, but it will barely cover a third of the import bill, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud said.

He told a consultative committee reviewing export performance during the current year that exports over the past seven months totalled \$572 million, a 19 per cent rise compared with the previous year's corresponding period.

"But this (increase) is not because of more exports but for higher prices fetched by some commodities," he said. "In fact, the volume of exports fell by seven percent during the seven months."

The minister called for "hard labour, devotion and sacrifice" to increase export earnings.

Traditional exports, including jute and tea, slumped by 15 per cent this year but there was a 21 per cent rise in exports of non-traditional items such as shrimps, frog legs and fish, according to official figures.

Record profits strengthen standing of Swiss banks

ZURICH (R) — Major Swiss banks made record profits in 1984 and, with their balance sheets stronger than ever, should boost earnings again this year, analysts say.

Swiss Bank Corporation, the last of the big three banks to report, said Wednesday its net profits last year had jumped 17.2 per cent to 503 million Swiss francs (\$172 million).

Competitors Union Bank of Switzerland and Credit Suisse had previously reported 15 and 19 per cent profit rises respectively, and all three offered shareholders bigger dividends for the second year running.

All three made big provisions for potential bad loans, though they acknowledge the international debt crisis has subsided.

The risk provisions, which were nearly as large as the net profits themselves, have helped contribute to a strengthening of all the banks' balance sheets.

Over the past three years each bank has set aside more than a billion Swiss francs (\$340 million) to cover problem loans to East European, Latin American and other countries.

Securities analysts said the profit figures showed just how well the banks are doing, despite worries about Switzerland losing its standing as a world financial marketplace.

Oil ministers to meet in June

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said Wednesday OPEC oil ministers will meet next in June.

The official Saudi Press Agency, reporting his remarks, gave no further details of the meeting.

Sheikh Yamani was speaking after talks with Algerian Petrochemical and Industries Minister Belkacem Nabi and Libyan Oil Minister Ahmad Shakhbouki, who arrived in Riyadh Tuesday night, it said.

The talks centred on the oil market situation and ways to promote the interests of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), it quoted him as saying.

Algeria and Libya, along with Iran, did not go along with an agreement reached at the last OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva last January reducing the price differential between light and heavy grades of crude oil.

OECD boosts growth on lower energy use

PARIS (R) — Energy use over the past two years in non-communist industrial countries has risen less than the pace of economic recovery, a Western energy official said Tuesday.

Mr. Wallace Hopkins, deputy executive director of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) told a newsconference that in previous recoveries economic growth has lagged the rate at which energy use has expanded.

He quoted preliminary figures for the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) area calculated by the IEA secretariat.

These showed a 7.9 per cent rise in industrial output in 1984 and a 4.9 per cent rise in gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic activity. But energy consumption in the same period only rose 4.3 per cent, Mr. Hopkins said.

The new pattern reflected both the shrinking role of heavy manufacturing industry in the Western economies and the effectiveness of energy-saving investments over the past ten years, he added.

The pattern varies from country to country, but the trend seems well established, and a three per cent OECD growth rate this year should be accompanied by only a 2.5 per cent rise in energy needs, Mr. Hopkins said.

The United States led the trend in 1984 with a 6.8 per cent growth rate and a 10.7 per cent rise in industrial output, but a rise of only 4.6 per cent in energy use.

A 6.6 per cent rise in Japanese energy use produced an 11.2 per cent rise in industrial output, although total gross domestic production rose by a lesser 5.7 per cent.

Western Europe's performance was mixed but overall its 3.5 per cent rise in industrial output and 2.5 per cent rise in gross domestic product were based on a 2.6 per cent rise in energy use.

Crocker losses down Midland Bank profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's Midland Bank Wednesday announced a 40 per cent fall in profits last year due to heavy losses by its Californian subsidiary, Crocker Bank.

Pre-tax earnings were down to £135 million (\$143 million) against £225 million (\$239 million) in 1983.

But Midland, one of Britain's big four commercial banks, managed to keep its total dividend unchanged from last year at 25.5 pence (27 cents) per share.

The result was far better than predicted by the gloomiest share analysts, but it still contrasted starkly with the 30 per cent jump in profits announced Tuesday by National Westminster, (Natwest)

Midland's non-Crocker profits rose by nearly half to £357 million (\$379 million) in 1984, a performance which chairman Sir Donald Barron described as very satisfactory.

But Crocker, taken over by Midland in 1980 and rarely out of trouble since, made a loss of £222 million (\$235 million), the largest ever by a U.S. bank, mainly on clients' loan problems due to weak agricultural prices and falling property values.

British miners ignore pickets, resume work

LONDON (R) — Resistance to the national return to work in Britain's coalfields crumbled Wednesday with miners ignoring pickets holding out for reinstatement of men sacked during a one-year-long strike over pit closures.

The state-run National Coal Board said well over 92 per cent of Britain's 186,000 miners were at work Wednesday up from 85 per cent Tuesday when the union formally ended the walkout.

The biggest return was in Yorkshire, Britain's largest coalfield, where 17,000 men went back for the first time. Pickets stopped half of Yorkshire's 50,000 miners returning Tuesday.

Police said Wednesday that returning miners walked past pickets at least three pits in the coalfield. Union officials earlier described the pickets as unofficial.

In Scotland, almost 1,700 men went back taking the total working there to 70 per cent. Strike leaders in Scotland meet Wednesday night to reconsider a decision to

hold out for a general amnesty for 700 men fired for picketing offences.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) called off the walkout on Sunday after the stream of miners abandoning the strike gathered pace.

Tuesday marked the start of an emotional return to work almost a year after the strike against pit closures began last March 12.

Chanting miners, led by brass bands and carrying colourful union banners, marched to their pits. Wives showered them with red carnations and church bells rang in some mining regions.

In Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield, 11 pits were still picketed by defiant miners from Kent, who have vowed to stay on strike until sacked colleagues are reinstated.

But miners at four traditionally hard-line Yorkshire pits said they would return to work anyway after union officials ruled that the picket lines were unofficial.

Diplomats doubt accord on low pollution criterion

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) environment ministers, caught between carmakers and ecologists, are unlikely to agree common standards for Europe's low-pollution car when they meet Thursday, according to diplomats.

While car exhausts are blamed for much of the pollution damage to European forests, industries and consumer lobbies are complaining about uncertainty caused by a lack of common emission standards.

But the 10 governments are at odds over possible new anti-pollution rules and diplomats say it is unlikely a Community-wide accord will be reached at the one-day Brussels meeting.

Earlier this week West Germany's Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann threatened that Bonn would go it alone on car exhaust restrictions if necessary.

Bonn wants all cars fitted with an exhaust-absorbing catalytic converter by 1989 to cut down toxic pollution.

In December ministers agreed in principle that vehicles with engines over two litres be required from 1988 to comply with tougher exhaust emission standards already in force in the U.S. and Japan. But they took no decision on small or medium cars.

Diplomats said one possible compromise could be action on medium-sized cars of 1.4 to two litres, which are responsible for most of the pollution, with smaller cars left aside for later discussion.

Almost two-thirds of registered cars in France and Italy are smaller than 1.4 litres, but only one-third in West Germany.

Mr. Zimmermann, under heavy public pressure from environmental pressure groups and the West German car industry, accused Britain of blocking the way to a European compromise.

This came after Italy and France, which had previously asked for several months delay in West Germany's plans, seemed to be changing their stance on tighter Community pollution controls.

Mr. Zimmermann said Britain appeared to consider that the low pollution "lean-burn motor", yet to be developed, offered the only long-term solution to ecological damage from exhausts.

He told an audience at the Geneva motor show that his appeal was directed not only at Bonn, but also at Switzerland, Austria and Sweden, where he said there was a strong demand for action on car pollution rules.

"We are urgently looking for agreement from tomorrow's meeting... and thus final clarity on exhaust limits, measuring techniques and dates," he said, according to a copy of his speech released in Munich.

Diplomats in Brussels were irritated by Mr. Zimmermann's tough attitude which seemed to contradict Chancellor Helmut Kohl's remark in a newspaper interview that Bonn would compromise with its European partners.

Mr. Kohl's remarks were widely interpreted as indicating that West Germany could soften its stand on cars of under 1.4 litres, which make up the bulk of French and Italian exports.

Diplomats said Britain was determined to use all possible means, including taking Bonn to the European Court, to prevent West Germany from introducing its tax reduction measures due to come into force in July.

The head of the committee of Common Market Automobile Constructors (CCMC), Mr. Eberhard von Kuenheim, Wednesday urged the ministers to reach agreement, saying the European industry needed a general and lasting compromise on exhaust limits.

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"We are urgently looking for agreement from tomorrow's meeting... and thus final clarity on exhaust limits, measuring techniques and dates," he said, according to a copy of his speech released in Munich.

Tourism counters shortfall in Cyprus trade deficit

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus' trade deficit rose by more than 20 per cent last year, but growth in tourism made for a bigger balance of payments surplus, official figures show.

The visible trade deficit rose by 78.3 million Cyprus pounds (\$112.3 million) last year to 460 million pounds (\$660 million), statistics office figures showed.

Exports rose 29.3 per cent to 337 million pounds (\$483.4 million) while imports grew 24.1 per cent to 796.5 million (\$1.14 billion), swelled by Cyprus Airways' purchase of two A-310 Airbus for 58.4 million pounds (\$83.8 million).

But a 27.8 per cent rise in tourism revenues to 223 million pounds (\$320 million) helped overall payments show a provisional surplus of 45 million pounds (\$64.6 million), up from 2.9 million (\$4.2 million) in 1983.

Foreign exchange reserves rose an estimated 21.7 per cent in 1984 to 400 million pounds (\$573.8 million).

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



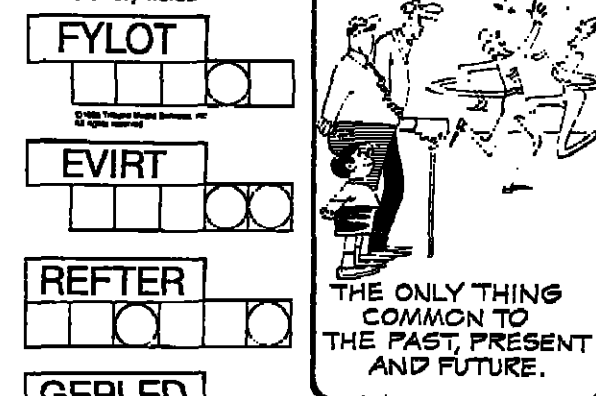
THE BETTER HALF



"Let me guess. Is it a new toupee, a new mustache or a new mouthwash?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAFT MOUNT SCRIBE HAPPEN

Answer: How he looked when she seemed apathetic

—PATHEC

